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1 **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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- AFBF: American Farm Bureau Federation
- AMP: Accepted Management Practices
- BMPs: Best Management Practices
- CFR: Code of Federal Regulation
- COI: Certificates of Insurance
- Current Use: Use Value Appraisal
- DRP: Dairy Revenue Protection (Insurance)
- EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
- FAP: Farm Agronomic Practices
- FARM: 2+2 Scholarship Program
- FQPA: Food Quality Protection Act
- FSMA: Food Safety Modernization Act
- FSA: Farm Service Agency
- ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- MNP: Nutrient Management Plan
- NRCS: Natural Resource Conservation Service
- OFPA: Organic Food Production Act
- RAPs: Required Agricultural Practices
- USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
- USMCA: US/Mexico/Canada Trade Agreement
- UVAA: Use Value Appraisal or Current Use
- UVM: University of Vermont
- VAAFM: Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
- VANR: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
- VDEC: Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
- VTC: Vermont Technical College
- VTRANS: Vermont Transportation Agency
- WTO: World Trade Organization

1
2 **THE PURPOSE OF VERMONT FARM BUREAU**
3

4 **Vermont Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental,**
5 **voluntary organization governed by and representing the families of**
6 **farmers and foresters united to improve the net income of its members**
7 **and preserve Vermont's rural quality of life.**
8

9 **The mission of Vermont Farm Bureau is to be the unifying voice**
10 **of Vermont agriculture.**
11

12 **Vermont Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau**
13 **Federation (AFBF), a national organization of farmers and ranchers in**
14 **all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The positions expressed in these pages**
15 **represent Vermont Farm Bureau's views on various issues as they**
16 **relate to Vermont. The positions of the national Farm Bureau**
17 **organization collectively are expressed through the American Farm**
18 **Bureau Federation.**
19

20 **Vermont Farm Bureau is local, county, state, national and**
21 **international in its scope and influence and is non-partisan, non-**
22 **sectarian, non-secret and non-discriminatory in character.**
23

24 **Vermont Farm Bureau is the voice of agricultural producers of all**
25 **kinds, all sizes and all levels as determined by its members.**
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1 **AGRICULTURE, GENERAL**

1

2
3 A strong and prosperous agricultural economy is vital to Vermont’s rural quality of life.
4 We urge the economic viability of Vermont’s agricultural industry be paramount as public
5 policies are formulated. In this regard, Vermont Farm Bureau specifically supports:
6

- 7 1. Use Value Assessment of all farm and productive forestland;
- 8 2. Voluntary sale or transfer of development rights;
- 9 3. Reducing capital gains and inheritance taxes;
- 10 4. Increasing investment tax credits;
- 11 5. Cost/benefit evaluation of all environmental and land use regulation;
- 12 6. Compensation to landowners for any reduction in land value caused by law or
13 governmental regulation;
- 14 7. Right to Farm and Right to Practice Forestry (2011);
- 15 8. Strengthening and diversifying value-added processing of agricultural products;
- 16 9. Efforts to educate and inform the public on ways farmers provide stewardship of
17 the land;
- 18 10. Development and implementation of a long-term national farm policy. (2013)

19
20 Vermont Farm Bureau strongly supports groups, organizations and institutions which
21 help strengthen Vermont agriculture.

22
23 Vermont Farm Bureau supports full funding of the Farm Agronomics Practices (FAP)
24 program. (2010)

25
26 Vermont Farm Bureau supports continued operation of Farm First to provide Vermont
27 farmers and their families with access to free and confidential support to address any personal
28 or work-related issues. (2017)

29
30 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the Legislature to appropriate adequate funding with a
31 minimum annual stipend of \$200,000 to support county fairs and field days.

32
33 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages active participation in Vermont’s county fairs and
34 field days by the VAAFM.

35 Furthermore, we urge sufficient resources be allocated by the Legislature on an annual basis to
36 maintain a first-class Vermont Building at the Eastern States Exposition (the “Big E”) to both
37 underline the importance of agriculture in Vermont and educate the public on Vermont’s
38 agriculture heritage and industry.

1 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the continuation and enhancement of the Working
2 Lands Enterprise Grants. We support an audit of the program and the grants to date along with
3 a comprehensive report of the results of the program to date. (2020)
4

5 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation to prevent unauthorized persons with
6 fraudulent and false pretenses from gaining access to agricultural production facilities including
7 employment by making such activities a criminal offense. (2014) (2015) (2016)
8

9 Lamoille County Farm Bureau considers farming your land can not cause the devaluation
10 of neighboring properties if the farm is adhering to RAPs. (2021)
11

12 Vermont Farm Bureau supports efforts to study and publicly provide a fuller
13 understanding of agriculture and forestry as economic engines in the state's economy. (2014)
14

15 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the creation of a crop insurance program for hemp.
16 (2019)
17

18 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the 2018 Farm Bill regulation that Delta 9 THC level
19 remains at the .3 level in hemp production. (2019)
20

21 Vermont Farm Bureau supports industrial hemp as a cultivated crop for uses such as
22 seed, fiber and oil. (2014) (2019)
23

24 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the use of artificial insemination in agriculture. (2021)
25

26 **VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS** **2**
27

28 Vermont Farm Bureau supports continued cooperation between the VAAFM, UVM and
29 other institutions with laboratory facilities to assure the Vermont agricultural community has
30 access to laboratory facilities (such as diagnostic and pathology) for agricultural science issues
31 including animal health, public health, seed, feed and fertilizer. (2013) (2019)
32

33 Vermont Farm Bureau recognizes VAAFM supports the largest industry in this state and
34 requires the necessary resources to maintain its leadership and regulatory oversight.
35

36 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the role of the VAAFM in maintaining all oversight and
37 enforcement of regulations regarding permitting, environmental regulations and inspections of
38 farms and to allow time for current regulations to realize their potential. (2013)
39

1 Vermont Farm Bureau requests VAAFMM cooperate with the Auditor of Accounts or other
2 body to demonstrate that a preponderance of Agricultural Development grants made within
3 this state result in direct benefits to farmers. (2018)

4
5 **AGRITOURISM**

3

6
7 Vermont Farm Bureau supports tourist information signage policy that is fair to all
8 businesses. (2016)

9
10 Vermont Farm Bureau should work closely with VAAFMM to develop signage for state
11 highways to direct the public to agricultural businesses and destinations.

12
13 Vermont Farm Bureau supports changes in Vermont’s sign laws to:

- 14 1. Provide signs that must be a minimum of 6 feet off the traveled portion of the
15 highway and not out of the right of way;
- 16 2. Clarify the definition of “premises” to mean land owned or leased by the farmer;
- 17 3. Allow temporary signs outside the confines of one’s own property with written
18 permission.

19
20 Vermont Farm Bureau supports clarification of the recently passed Act 143 which
21 intended to promote and facilitate the economic viability of Vermont’s farms, so
22 misinterpretation of the law by town planners ceases.
23 Furthermore, consideration should be made so that accessory farm businesses are not subject
24 to a site plan review. (2018)

25
26 **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

4

27
28 Vermont Farm Bureau, recognizing the importance of biotechnology to the future
29 economic well-being of the state, encourages funding efforts to develop biotech industries.
30 We oppose placing prohibitions or undue restrictions on the development of biotechnology
31 products which have been deemed safe and effective by appropriate regulatory agencies.
32 Further, we oppose creating lists of users of agricultural biotechnology, which may target users
33 unfairly.

34
35 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes any legislation restricting the uses of any product,
36 biotech or organic, that has been approved by the USDA, FDA, EPA, etc. We believe that
37 existing legal safeguards are adequate to protect all farmers and consumers. (2006) (2015)

38
39 Vermont Farm Bureau supports unbiased, scientifically based evaluations concerning
40 human and animal safety and wholesomeness, as well as the environmental impacts of
41 biotechnology and the right of farmers to use these products based on these evaluations.

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COMMODITIES

5

Vermont Farm Bureau supports continuation and improvement of the Vermont state meat inspection program under the direction of the VAAFM.

Furthermore, we support:

1. National legislation to allow meat inspected under the Vermont program to be sold in interstate commerce;
2. A meat grading system to be implemented which will enable livestock producers to expand their market;
3. And encourage the VAAFM to continue to promote local and regional markets for Vermont livestock raised for slaughter.

Vermont Farm Bureau urges the Vermont Beef Industry Council to increase support of dairy beef. (2011) (2017)

Vermont Farm Bureau opposes vertical integration when it substantially reduces market competition in the beef industry. (2006) (2016)

Vermont Farm Bureau urges all non-producer owned agricultural processors and handlers be bonded at no less than 60% of any claim value for which they are found liable.

Vermont Farm Bureau asks funds for disaster relief and crop failure payments to be paid directly to the affected farmer and may also apply to a landowner if it is determined that the land had lost functional or marketable value because of the disaster; qualification for disaster relief should be extended to isolated individual events, instead of requiring whole county designations. (2001)

Vermont Farm Bureau urges Congress to provide adequate funding for school breakfast and lunch programs offering the choice of milk with all perishable food products to be served at proper temperatures.

Furthermore, we support programs such as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and the Special Milk Program. (2012)

CONSUMER PROTECTION

6

Vermont Farm Bureau supports including trucks with gross vehicle weights of one ton or more and agricultural equipment under Vermont’s lemon law statute.

Vermont Farm Bureau requests that all foods have a Country of Origin label that is WTO compliant. (2013) (2015)

1
2 **CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT**

7

3
4 Vermont Farm Bureau recommends pesticide regulation and pesticide monitoring
5 programs remain in the control of the VAAFMM.
6

7 Vermont Farm Bureau believes in the finding of fact concerning restriction of
8 insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides or herbicides under the FQPA and that the appellant
9 should be required to show actual harm rather than calculated potentials. (2016)
10

11 **DAIRY**

8

12
13 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the innovative development of new dairy products and
14 a way to profitably market these products in a national and international market. (2010)
15

16 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the modernization of the Federal Milk Market Order
17 system. (2019)
18

19 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes any reclassification of reconstituted milk under the
20 Federal Order program. (2019)
21

22 Vermont Farm Bureau supports reform to the price discovery mechanism for classified
23 pricing. (2010)
24

25 Vermont Farm Bureau recommends national dairy policy to include:

- 26 1. An increase in solids not fat (SNF) minimum standards in fluid milk to match the
27 California standards;
- 28 2. A promotion assessment equivalent to the domestic promotion assessment
29 levied on all imported products and commodities. (2011)
30

31 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the decrease of the industry somatic cell count in fluid
32 milk from dairy cows to 400,000 cells/ml to be competitive in the global marketplace. (2012)
33 (2017) (2019)
34

35 Vermont Farm Bureau requests whole milk (total fat content 3.25%) be offered as a
36 choice in all schools as part of the school lunch program. (2016)
37

38 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the use of raw milk in production of cheese aged over
39 sixty days provided producers follow Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs). (2009) (2016)
40

1 Vermont Farm Bureau should ask the Vermont Legislature to amend current law to
2 require all retail raw milk be tested to the same standard or higher standards as pasteurized
3 milk and the producers be inspected the same as commercial farms. (2014) (2018)
4

5 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes any changes to the Capper-Volstead Act, which allows
6 farmers to market milk collectively without violating antitrust laws. (2007)
7

8 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the USDA to increase the funding available through the
9 Tariff Aid (Market Facilitation) Program provided to dairy producers. (2019)
10

11 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the FDA to enforce the dairy labeling regulations and laws
12 currently in the Federal Register. (2019) (2021)
13

14 Vermont Farm Bureau supports regional enhancement of the Dairy Margin Coverage
15 Program (DMC) and Dairy Revenue Protection Insurance (DRP). (2019) (2021)
16

17 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the State of Vermont assisting farmers with DMC and
18 DRP through premium subsidies or state level enhancements. (2019)
19

20 Vermont Farm Bureau recommends a Growth Management Plan that may incorporate
21 but not be limited to:

- 22 1. A dairy farmer governance board working in conjunction with USDA;
- 23 2. Determination of a base milk volume for individual producers;
- 24 3. Determination of the volume of milk required to meet domestic and export
25 needs as well as a 30-day emergency stock of dairy products nationally,
26 regionally and to the individual dairy farmer;
- 27 4. A means to provide strong signals to individual dairy farmers that milk over the
28 required domestic and export volume and emergency stock is not desired;
- 29 5. A means for new dairy farmers to join family operations and/or start new
30 individual dairy farms;
- 31 6. Allowing for entry, expansion and exit from the dairy industry
- 32 7. Detailed rules and regulations for the merging of dairy farming operations, the
33 dissolution of farm partnerships and other changes in business structures;
- 34 8. Is equitable to farms of all sizes (2021);
- 35 9. Is mandatory for all dairy producers to take part.

36 Furthermore, we support a flat administrative fee for all dairy farmers. (2019)
37

38 Vermont Farm Bureau supports dairy supply management initiatives, including
39 mandatory, that will assist in creating greater price stability. (2021)

40 Furthermore, we support a state, national and industry supported, long term, counter cyclical
41 program addressing the volatility in milk pricing that will provide for the viability and vibrancy

1 dairy industry in Vermont; any program should recognize the needs for regional production of
2 milk for food security purposes and any program should recognize the variability of significant
3 input costs, World Trade Organization compliance and reflect the true value of surplus milk.
4 (2011) (2015) (2016) (2019) (2021)

5
6 Vermont Farm Bureau requests dairy milk be offered as a default choice beverage on
7 children’s menus in Vermont restaurants.
8 Furthermore, we do not support nut or plant based beverages as an alternative to dairy milk
9 for child nutrition. (2020)

10
11 Vermont Farm Bureau supports all efforts to find a market for the Horizon Organic dairy
12 producers. (2021)

13
14 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages USDA to either ban the use of rBST in the dairy
15 industry and update labeling requirements of non rBST milk products to reflect current dairy
16 industry use. (2021)

17
18 **DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS**

9

19
20 Vermont Farm Bureau supports developments rights agreements containing specific
21 time frames with a defined date of commencement and termination with all easements and
22 rights reverting to the original grantor or successor upon expiration of the contract. (2017)

23
24 Vermont Farm Bureau believes the following principles should apply if public funds are
25 used to purchase development rights:

- 26 1. Fair market value should be paid to the landowner;
- 27 2. All tax obligations should be fully disclosed and explained prior to purchase;
- 28 3. Any restrictions on use of the land should be clear and limited to maintain a
29 viable working landscape and allow traditional uses as well as innovative
30 agricultural uses such as farm stands, bed and breakfasts, recreation, etc., for
31 profit; (2003)
- 32 4. Agreements should not restrict any new farming methods, technology or the
33 ability to diversity or change into other types of agriculture such as agritourism.
34 (2012)

35
36 Vermont Farm Bureau believes property with development rights removed should be
37 taxed at its productive agricultural or forestry value and the state Division of Property Valuation
38 and Review should publish and distribute guidelines to assist local listers in equitable assessing
39 these restricted lands.

1 Vermont Farm Bureau believes the designation of land as “prime agricultural soils”
2 should not be the sole reason for a zoning or land use review board to reject a proposed
3 development. (2006)(2017)
4

5 **DISEASE, INSECTS, PREDATORS AND PESTS**

10 **10**

6
7 Vermont Farm Bureau supports continuous appropriations from the Vermont
8 Legislature to study, educate and train the agricultural community about Johnes disease.
9 (2010)
10

11 Vermont Farm Bureau supports preventative programs for chronic infectious diseases of
12 dairy cattle including BSE (bovine spongiform encephalitis), tuberculosis and brucellosis to
13 provide vaccination and control programs as necessary through a combination of private and
14 public funding, including adequate funding for the Vermont State Veterinarian’s office within
15 the VAAFM, and that all such measures should be considered part of an overall national
16 security initiative. (2001) (2019)
17

18 Vermont Farm Bureau supports awareness training and preparedness planning among
19 producers and state animal health authorities for emerging and exotic diseases of concern to
20 livestock. (2014) (2015) (2019)
21

22 Vermont Farm Bureau supports:

- 23 1. A diverse and healthy wildlife population in Vermont;
- 24 2. State, regional and national policies recognizing farm animals and agricultural
25 crops at least as important as wildlife;
- 26 3. Management policies recognizing the priority of protecting both the public
27 safety and the economic viability of agricultural enterprises from diseases such
28 as rabies, giardia and distemper;
- 29 4. Policies to protect agriculture from predators which cause economic harm and
30 threaten crops and domestic animals. (2012)
31

32 Vermont Farm Bureau recommends the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife pay
33 fair market value for proven losses to livestock from wild predator attacks.
34

35 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a livestock and crop producer’s right to shoot predators
36 and other nuisance wildlife at baited locations using lighting with prior notification of wildlife
37 officials.
38

39 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the use of steel traps, including leg hold traps, for
40 capturing predators, nuisance or fur-bearing animals.
41

1 **EDUCATION**

2
3 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the VAAFM to recognize the importance of agricultural
4 knowledge at the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels and provide both financial
5 and technical support for agricultural education.
6

7 Vermont Farm Bureau supports agricultural and natural resource education and the
8 establishment of agricultural and natural resource education programs at regional technical
9 centers and high schools. (2008)
10

11 Vermont Farm Bureau believes the Vermont Agency of Education should continue to
12 fund and support the FFA agricultural advisor position. (2012) (2019)
13

14 Vermont Farm Bureau supports and encourages agriculture education in the classroom
15 and the use of local farm products in our schools. (2009)
16

17 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the full funding of the National Veterinary Service Act of
18 2003 and the establishment and full funding of a Vermont net tuition repayment program for
19 large animal veterinarians in under-served areas. (2008)
20

21 Vermont Farm Bureau supports development and introduction of a comprehensive
22 curriculum for elementary and secondary schools on agriculture and forestry with balanced
23 content based on sound science;
24 Furthermore, we encourage teaching students about production agriculture, animals, nutrition
25 and forestry. (2019)
26

27 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the growth of farm apprenticeship programs to be
28 administered and funded through the VAAFM in Vermont institutions and organizations for the
29 purpose of gaining on-farm practical experience for those students graduating with an interest
30 in a future in the agricultural industry. (2007)(2013)
31

32 Vermont Farm Bureau strongly supports the continued financial support for the FARMS
33 2+2 scholarship for Vermont farm youth. (2019) (2021)
34

35 Vermont Farm Bureau supports adequate state funding of special education. (2012)
36

37 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the U.S. Congress to fund special education at the 40%
38 level promised when the Equal Educational Opportunities law was passed.
39

40 Vermont Farm Bureau supports local control of schools and school choice. (2012)
41 (2015) (2017) (2019) (2021)

1
2 Vermont Farm Bureau supports repeal of Act 46. (2015) (2019) (2021)

3
4 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a comprehensive study of the effects, consequences
5 and costs or savings of Act 46 (School Consolidation). (2021)

6
7 Vermont Farm Bureau supports an education finance reform plan and calls on the
8 Legislature to reform current education funding law to rely less heavily on property taxes.
9 (2021)

10
11 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes unfunded education mandates. (2007) (2019)

12
13 **ENDANGERED SPECIES**

12

14
15 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the Federal Endangered Species Act differentiate between
16 species truly in danger of extinction and those marginally threatened.

17 We also recommend amendment of the Vermont Threatened and Endangered Species law to:

- 18 1. Require state cost sharing and compensation for species preservation; (2011)
- 19 2. Change the method by which species are added to the threatened or
20 endangered list by making the process more specific and providing automatic
21 annual de-listing of species;
- 22 3. Provide incentives and/or compensation to private landowners where
23 threatened or endangered species are located;
- 24 4. Include business representatives and landowners on the Endangered Species
25 Advisory Committee;
- 26 5. Consider gene banking as an option for preserving species. (2012)

27
28 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes listing the lynx, wolf or the Indiana Bat as an endangered
29 or threatened species. (2011)

30
31 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes the reintroduction of wolves into Vermont. (2010)

32
33 **ENERGY, UTILITIES, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

13

34
35 Vermont Farm Bureau should be actively involved in any future restructuring of
36 Vermont's electric utilities.

37
38 Vermont Farm Bureau supports:

- 39 1. Unrestricted customer choice of electric supplier;
- 40 2. Reasonable rules to allow consolidation of electric distributors;

3. Amendment of Vermont commercial law to allow farmer-owned organizations to serve as consolidators to facilitate negotiation of least-cost rates;
4. Equitable treatment of rural customers;
5. Maintenance of Vermont-based retail distribution companies.

Vermont Farm Bureau favors efforts to maintain or lower electric rates in Vermont. (2009)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports more review on sites designated for commercial wind and solar power; Furthermore, we support public participation in energy project siting and ensuring transmission capacity earlier in the regulatory process; local governments, residents and the VAAFV should have status in the siting decisions of renewable energy. (2015) (2016) (2017)

Vermont Farm Bureau urges support for regional and national efforts to develop sources of renewable energy from agricultural production and land and to include wind, solar, fiber and hydro.

Vermont Farm Bureau supports tax breaks and other incentives directed towards renewable on-farm energy sources such as wind, solar, hydro, biodiesel, biogas, methane and methane digesters and wood chip systems and the development of educational programs providing technical advice in these technologies. (2010)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports the use of approved outdoor furnaces and should work to ensure that any regulations developed are favorable to the agricultural and forestry communities. (2012)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports corn burning appliances and devices allowed by EPA regulations; if the EPA does not have standards or tests for corn then wood pellet standards should be used as a reference. (2017)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports facilitating the building of energy projects using woody biomass as fuel, including commercial pellet manufacturing. (2013)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports net metering. (2013)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports electric utilities charging an appropriate fee to the net metering customer to cover costs associated with supplying electricity to the net metering customer when the customer's demand for electric power exceeds the net metering generation. (2013)

1 Vermont Farm Bureau resolves to urge the State of Vermont to do everything possible
2 to stabilize carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere by promoting alternative energy systems
3 and efficient heating and transportation methods. (2010) (2019)

4
5 Vermont Farm Bureau supports exploration of reliable and viable alternate energy
6 sources for Vermont. (2014)

7
8 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the Vermont Legislature to prioritize the availability of
9 broadband internet access to all homes and businesses in the State of Vermont. (2014)

10
11 Vermont Farm Bureau supports communication expansions that respects property
12 rights and holds contractors to performance standards, including providing current Certificates
13 of Insurance (COI). (2021)

14
15 Vermont Farm Bureau supports increasing the height limits on existing cell towers to
16 reduce the need for additional towers. (2015)

17
18 Vermont Farm Bureau supports utility line height of no less than sixteen (16) feet off the
19 ground. (2019)

20
21 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the Efficiency Vermont Program but asks that the
22 energy efficiency charge be re-examined and lowered for agricultural operations. (2020)

23
24 **ENVIRONMENT**

14

25
26 Vermont Farm Bureau urges Congress to clarify and affirm agriculture is not subject to
27 the Comprehensive Environmental and Liability Act (CERCLA) nor to the Environmental Planning
28 and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), correcting misinterpretations of these acts by the
29 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (2007)

30
31 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a requirement that all EPA regulations, rulemaking and
32 procedures adopted regarding agriculture and forestry be based on solid, peer-reviewed data.
33 Furthermore, we also support requirements derived from both the Clean Air Act and the Clean
34 Water Act include standards-based performance goals based on sound science with data
35 subject to peer review and also request our Congressional delegation support requiring a cost-
36 benefit analysis before implementation of all such regulation. (2010)

37
38 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the development of a suitable no cost disposal program
39 for discarded tires used in agriculture.

1 Vermont Farm Bureau supports creating a voluntary agricultural plastic recycling system
2 which operates statewide and aims to reduce the amount of ag-plastic reaching landfills from
3 Vermont farms. (2018)
4

5 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages cooperation between the Department of
6 Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the VAAFM in providing resources for farmers affected
7 by the perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination;
8 Furthermore, we request DEC and VAAFM to address the increased impact of contaminated
9 water on soils, crops, livestock and the farmers' livelihoods. (2016)
10

11 **EQUINE**

15 **15**

13 Vermont Farm Bureau supports full and equal status within agriculture for Vermont's
14 equine business owners. To achieve such status, we support:

- 15 1. Equine business property being eligible as agricultural property in UVA;
- 16 2. Inclusion of the equine businesses under the agricultural sales tax exemptions;
- 17 3. Maintaining an active equine committee within Vermont Farm Bureau;
- 18 4. Trails, parking areas and camping sites for equine activity be made available in
19 the Green Mountain National Forest and on state lands; (2013) (2015) (2016)
- 20 5. Developing an expanded definition of farm income from equine businesses.
21 (2010) (2013) (2014) (2016)
22

23 Vermont Farm Bureau shall continue to lobby the State of Vermont Office of Workers'
24 Compensation about the unfairness of a single class code (8279) for the equine industry in
25 Vermont.
26

27 **FINANCE**

31 **16**

29 Vermont Farm Bureau supports permanent and dependable funding of the Vermont
30 Economic Development Authority (VEDA) as a critical source of credit and capital for Vermont
31 farmers;

32 Furthermore, we favor regular increases in the funding to keep pace with the increasing credit
33 needs of farmers and urge VEDA to extend repayment terms to make loans more affordable.
34 (2012) (2016)
35

36 Vermont Farm Bureau supports efforts of the Farm Credit System to ensure adequate
37 credit is available for agriculture. (2006) (2016)
38

39 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages increased funding by the USDA in the form of low-
40 interest loans and grants to be used for alternative manure management practices (i.e.
41 anaerobic digesters). (2007) (2016)

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FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY

17

Vermont Farm Bureau supports the same regulatory and safety standards required for domestically grown products be required for imported products to protect consumer safety and prevent economic advantages. (2013)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports VAAFM researching installation of a Phyto Sanitary Irradiation Device (also known as cold pasteurization) at a Food Venture Center or other supportive venue in order to improve the safety and marketability of Vermont produce. (2017)

FORESTRY

18

Vermont Farm Bureau supports research under the United States Forest Service (USFS) Forest Carbon Accounting Framework which defines the capacity of actively managed forests and forest soils to absorb and retain greenhouse gases such as CO2. (This research is published in the annual Forest Inventory Analysis report and disseminated through the Climate Change Advisors initiative to lawmakers, media and the public at www.fis.fs.fed.us/forestcarbon).

Vermont Farm Bureau supports USFS amending its policy regarding fire; Furthermore, we support active timber management for the purpose of reducing destructive wild fire in the Urban/Wildlands Interface and the encouragement of fire in forest domains where frequent burns are an appropriate management tool. (2016)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports continuation of traditional uses on the former Champion Paper Company land and all State forestland for recreational and commercial uses. (2011)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports exclusive use of Vermont’s Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) to evaluate whether timber harvesting conforms with environmental quality standards. (2006)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports landowner-based Green Marketing Initiatives which promote use of timber sourced from sustainably managed and privately-owned North American woodlands (such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the American Tree Farm Systems PEFC certification). (2010)

Vermont Farm Bureau supports that farmers should not be required to obtain zoning permits or environmental review before converting forested land to agricultural uses. (2011)

1 Vermont Farm Bureau believes forestland, like all agricultural land, must be
2 economically sustainable to remain viable. In order to maintain forests as a vital part of
3 Vermont’s working rural landscape, we urge the following principles apply to all federal, state
4 and local zoning and planning policy regarding forestland:

- 5 1. The average annual harvest of forest products should approximate the long-term
6 average annual growth of those forest products;
- 7 2. Forestland must be assessed for tax purposes at UVA;
- 8 3. All generally accepted silvicultural tools, including clear cutting and aerial
9 spraying, must be available to owners of forestland;
- 10 4. In order to promote development of robust value-added wood manufacturing
11 enterprises in rural towns, Vermont should devise business-friendly legal,
12 transportation, energy, communication, economic, tax and regulatory policies
13 (2006);
- 14 5. Forest management plans should provide for multiple uses on virtually all lands
15 where feasible. (2012)

16
17 Vermont Farm Bureau believes all government land acquisitions should meet the
18 following conditions:

- 19 1. The state and/or federal government obtain local/municipal approval before
20 purchasing land in that community;
- 21 2. There is no net gain in the amount of land owned or controlled by the
22 government as a result of the purchase;
- 23 3. Government land acquisition should be funded exclusively by sale or trade of
24 existing property;
- 25 4. Government-owned land should be valued by Listers and pay tax to towns in the
26 same manner and rates as equivalent privately owned land; (2010)
- 27 5. The Payments in Liew of Taxes (PILOT) must not be reduced by the Legislature to
28 save funds for Montpelier at the expense of towns. (2016)

29
30 Vermont Farm Bureau supports:

- 31 1. The revisions to the USFS Roadless Rule, which would protect existing roads and
32 allow construction of new roads for the purpose of harvesting timber, improving
33 wildlife habitat and fighting forest fires; (2005)
- 34 2. Sustainable timber harvest in the Green Mountain National Forest; (2003)
- 35 3. Maintaining forest roads on public lands and designation of no additional
36 Roadless areas. Regulations of such roads should be by rule of USFS and not
37 transferred to EPA jurisdiction. (2013)

38
39 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes the Wild Lands Project or any analogous attempt to
40 depopulate forested land in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. (2006)

1 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) or any
2 similar acts and recognizes that the private ownership of property is the foundation of a
3 prosperous economy and a free society.
4

5 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes expanded government ownership of working rural lands
6 because of the threat to the resource base of the farm and forest industries, the threat to the
7 tax base of many rural communities and in some cases, the threat to the survival of rural
8 communities.
9

10 Vermont Farm Bureau supports early successional management on public lands. (2017)
11

12 Vermont Farm Bureau continues to oppose extension of the Silvio O. Conte National
13 Wildlife Refuge, as well as any program for the U.S. government or state government to acquire
14 private lands. (2017)
15

16 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the promotion and maintenance of current sawmills
17 and encourages development of new sites. (2003)
18

19 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a coordinated national and state effort to halt the
20 spread of non-native plants, pathogens or pests destructive to forest productivity, including but
21 not limited to Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALB), Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and
22 the Garlic Mustard planter
23

24 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the ban on importation of firewood into the State of
25 Vermont. (2014)(2016)
26

27 **HEALTH**

19

28
29 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislative efforts to address the cost crisis in health
30 care and to make health insurance available and affordable to all Vermonters. (2011)
31

32 Vermont Farm Bureau supports these considerations to be included in any restructuring
33 of health care by the U.S. Congress:

- 34 1. Portability across state lines;
- 35 2. Tort reform to decrease insurance costs to primary health providers;
- 36 3. No tax upon uninsured individuals or small businesses;
- 37 4. Tax equity between employer-directed and individual insurance premiums;
- 38 5. Free choice among various levels of insurance coverage;
- 39 6. Not to discriminate against pre-existing conditions. (2009)
40

1 Vermont Farm Bureau supports using net income to determine eligibility and premiums
2 if income sensitivity is used as an indicator in any new health insurance initiative. (2014) (2015)
3 (2016)

4
5 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislative efforts to provide a healthcare program that
6 emphasizes free market competition and consumer freedom of choice. (2014) (2015) (2016)
7 (2017)

8
9 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages farm organizations to work together to provide lower
10 cost health insurance. (2018)

11
12 Vermont Farm Bureau supports maintaining our rural hospitals.

13 Vermont Farm Bureau believes the Legislature and Executive branches should re-
14 examine, revise and repeal laws and regulations that mandate joint and severable liability for
15 excessive losses by health insurers, and laws and regulations that prohibit or discourage health
16 insurers from creating insurance products that provide consumers and businesses greater
17 freedom of choice with greater personal responsibility by charging premiums that allow
18 discounts for age, occupation, healthy behavior and coverage.

19
20 **LABOR**

20

21
22 Vermont Farm Bureau supports efforts by the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks
23 to find ways to reduce the premiums for Workers Compensation Insurance and directs staff to
24 assist in the effort to remodel Vermont's badly damaged Workers Compensation laws to permit
25 employer cooperatives to create safety and loss prevention networks. (2017)

26
27 Vermont Farm Bureau supports Workers Compensation reform initiatives that address
28 the need for accessible and affordable Workers Compensation Insurance in the State of
29 Vermont which would:

- 30 1. Improve delivery of service to injured employees;
- 31 2. Reduce the administrative costs imposed on employers;
- 32 3. Simplify the claims process, and
- 33 4. Stabilize the program.

34 Furthermore, we also ask that benefits be the same as bordering states to give us a level
35 playing field. (2010) (2016) (2017) (2018)

36
37 Vermont Farm Bureau supports clarifying and making uniform across all State of
38 Vermont agencies how contract and independent workers are classified for Workers
39 Compensation, Unemployment Insurance and other employment mandates. (2016)

1 Vermont Farm Bureau supports immigration reform that would allow for the use of
2 migrant workers year-round on dairy farms for a minimum of three years and asks that the U.S.
3 Labor Secretary revisit the unfavorable ruling that did not treat dairy farms the same as sheep
4 farms. (2012)

5
6 Vermont Farm Bureau:

- 7 1. Opposes inconsistent and heavy-handed enforcement by ICE of cases involving
8 undocumented farm workers;
- 9 2. Urges Congress to simplify VISA procedures for farm workers;
- 10 3. Expects recognition of the human rights of persons who enter this country
11 seeking work;
- 12 4. Wants to lessen the penalties against employers who hire foreign workers
13 possessing valid documents;
- 14 5. Will work for a reasonable path to citizenship for those interested laborers.
15 (2008) (2019)

16
17 Vermont Farm Bureau resolves Vermont farm employers should not be responsible for
18 the no-match IDs of employees or subject to any penalties as a result. (2007)

19
20 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation to improve the availability of foreign guest
21 workers for dairy and other year-round agricultural operations. (2012) (2019)

22
23 Vermont Farm Bureau strongly encourages a coordinated federal policy to support the
24 H2A program for seasonal guest workers for orchard, vegetable, fruit and other agricultural
25 operations. (2011)

26
27 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a freeze on H2A agricultural worker wages through
28 2022. (2021)

29
30 **LEGAL/LIABILITY**

21

31
32 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the Legislature to minimize the legal tort liability of
33 agricultural businesses. (2019)

34
35 Vermont Farm Bureau supports protecting private property owners from lawsuits by
36 persons who enter their property with or without permission.

37
38 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the Legislature to replace the “willful and wanton
39 misconduct” standard with an “intentional infliction of harm” standard in the so-called
40 Landowner Liability statute.

1 Vermont Farm Bureau requests reforms to Landowner Liability Laws should include
2 provisions to protect landowners from injury which is the result of activities associated with the
3 usual and customary practice of farming or forestry and the following language be included to
4 further protect private property rights:

5 “The fact a landowner has permitted use, either implied (by not posting the land) or
6 expressed for recreation purposes does not establish a claim or right nor can it be used
7 to establish such a claim by the users. The fact a landowner has not posted the land,
8 thereby permitting access, shall not limit or preclude the landowner from excluding or
9 limiting trails or uses at any time in the future.” (2019)

10
11 Vermont Farm Bureau believes the liability of property owners for injury by livestock or
12 guardian animals be strictly limited to cases of gross and willful negligence.

13
14 Vermont Farm Bureau believes the liability of landowners for injuries suffered by the
15 public should be strictly limited except for “intentional infliction of harm, nor should a
16 landowner be liable for any injury suffered upon a structure erected to comply with a directive
17 from a State or Federal agency.

18
19 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the right of self-defense for property and person
20 Furthermore, we also support victims of crime being afforded the same rights as criminals and
21 urge amendments to laws and regulations affirming these rights.

22
23 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the lawful ownership and use of sporting firearms by
24 private individuals as provided in the Vermont and United States constitutions.

25
26 **LIVESTOCK** **22**

27
28 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the promotion of good animal care practices.

29
30 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the National Dairy FARM Program as a standard for
31 animal welfare. (2020)

32
33 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a code of ethics for livestock shows and encourages the
34 enforcement by the show superintendent. (2005)

35
36 Vermont Farm Bureau requests the Vermont Livestock Inspection Division create a
37 written, consistent protocol for portable slaughterhouse businesses which would allow these
38 businesses to operate on farms and produce meat that is saleable within the state. (2003)

1 Vermont Farm Bureau supports animals being shipped directly from the farm of origin
2 to a slaughterhouse should require no further identification beyond the registration of the farm
3 establishment number and a valid bill of lading. (2018) (2019)

4
5 **MAPLE**

23

6
7 Vermont Farm Bureau acknowledges the critical importance of Vermont’s maple
8 industry to tourism and the economy and we support adequate public funding for maple
9 industry research, including the Proctor Maple Research Laboratory. (2019)

10
11 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the ongoing development of criteria for use of public
12 lands in Vermont for maple sap harvesting and urges state agencies to cooperate with the
13 Vermont Maple Industry Committee in their development.

14
15 Vermont Farm Bureau resolves to join the Vermont Sugar Makers Association in
16 requesting the FDA take enforcement actions to stop the misbranding of products that do not
17 include real maple. (2017) (2019)

18
19 **ORGANIC**

24

20
21 Vermont Farm Bureau supports keeping organic standards strictly organic and only
22 allow use of USDA approved products to retain a certified organic label. (2013) (2019)

23
24 Vermont Farm Bureau supports imported organic labeling be subject to the same
25 standards as U.S. organic labeling. (2013)

26
27 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the Organic Materials Review Institute and USDA’s list
28 of approved materials be the same. (2013) (2019)

29
30 Vermont Farm Bureau reaffirms the OFPA commitment to soil as the basis for organic
31 certification by the USDA;
32 Furthermore, we request the National Organic Program (NOP) follow the law and not certify
33 hydroponic as organic. (2016) (2019)

34
35 **PLANNING**

25

36
37 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes government acquisition of agricultural lands for uses
38 such as landfills, septic systems and roads as being contrary to the priority of preserving our
39 rural landscape.

1 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the adoption of a standard definition of “prime
2 agricultural soils”, incorporating an analysis of such considerations as critical mass, proximity to
3 adjacent farms, economic viability and farm services.
4

5 Vermont Farm Bureau supports local rather than state decision-making regarding
6 recreation paths, scenic corridors and other land use planning issues.
7

8 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a simple appeals process at all levels.
9

10 Vermont Farm Bureau supports continued exemption from local zoning and Act 250 for
11 agricultural improvements. (2006)

12 Vermont Farm Bureau believes that reducing sprawl should begin with reform of the
13 following existing laws and regulations:

- 14 1. Vermont land gains tax;
 - 15 2. On-site septic regulations;
 - 16 3. Property taxes on farmland.
- 17

18 **PROPERTY OWNERS RIGHTS**

26

19
20 Vermont Farm Bureau supports protection of private property owners rights embodied
21 in the constitutions of the United States and the State of Vermont.
22

23 Vermont Farm Bureau favors the right of landowners to remove gravel from streams to
24 keep them from flooding and eroding and that this channel management tool is considered as
25 one option when a problem is being assessed. (2010)
26

27 Vermont Farm Bureau supports working with the Agency of Transportation and Agency
28 of Natural Resources on a systematic plan to identify where the river channels are located and
29 maintain those channels. (2011)
30

31 Vermont Farm Bureau believes restrictions on the ownership or use of private property
32 by government should be made only in cases of compelling public interest.
33

34 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the right of property owners to utilize their property
35 including providing private hunting opportunities including fenced hunting areas.
36

37 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation at the Federal, State and local levels
38 requiring government agencies to prepare private property impact statements for any new laws
39 or regulations impairing the use, value or other ownership rights of private property. (2016)
40

1 Vermont Farm Bureau believes any rule-making committee, governmental agency or
2 legislative body of Federal, State and local authority which enforces rules and regulations
3 resulting in reduced value of private property shall reimburse the property owner for lost value
4 and the municipality for lost tax revenue;
5 Furthermore, such decrease in value shall be determined by the local board of civil authority
6 through the tax appeal process and the entity responsible for the loss shall pay the cost.
7

8 Vermont Farm Bureau believes the right of individual privacy is guaranteed by Article 11
9 of the Vermont Constitution.

10 Further, we assert certain decisions of the Vermont Supreme Court are not constitutional and
11 therefore we urge that legislation be passed to:

- 12 1. Ensure private driveways are not considered part of public highways;
- 13 2. Require law enforcement to obtain a court-authorized warrant before
14 undertaking surveillance of any kind of private property whether or not the
15 property is posted or enclosed.
16

17 Vermont Farm Bureau believes ownership of abandoned rights of way should revert to
18 abutting landowners and when a new use is proposed in such rights of way then a new right of
19 way agreement shall be negotiated.

20 Furthermore, when abandoned rights of way are acquired by government after compensation
21 to the abutting landowners, we urge that all maintenance, including fences, be adequately
22 maintained by the government. (2006)
23

24 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a law to require agencies of government to notify
25 owners of private property by certified mail thirty days before any consideration of any
26 proposed restriction, inclusion of the land in a government inventory, map or plan, or any
27 action affecting the use or value of the property.

28 Furthermore, we urge all agencies of government respect the right of private property owners
29 to review any such proposals and their right to appeal any decision to a higher authority or the
30 courts and violators of the law receive prompt investigation and adjudication.
31

32 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation prohibiting wellhead protection areas being
33 created on anyone's property without their written permission. (2013)
34

35 Vermont Farm Bureau believes there should be appropriate and immediate
36 enforcement of trespassing laws with penalties enabling and compelling law enforcement
37 authorities to assist landowners in protecting property from unwanted trespassers. (2007)
38

39 Vermont Farm Bureau believes private property is private and governmental officials
40 and the public must obtain permission from property owners before entering private property
41 for any purpose.

1
2 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the right of private property owners to post their land.

3
4 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the USDA view that Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs)
5 are proprietary information not to be released to the public. (2017)
6

7 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the efforts of Vermont Traditions Coalition to make sure
8 management on public lands is supportive of individual property rights and to strengthen a
9 coalition of farming, forestry, hunting and outdoor sporting interests. (2003)
10

11 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the Vermont Legislature adopting a law (as urged by the
12 U.S. Supreme Court in Kelo v. New London) restricting the use of powers of eminent domain to
13 cases of public necessity.

14 Furthermore, property taken by eminent domain should be the smallest quantity necessary for
15 the stated use, should be devoted entirely to public use and government should never seize
16 property for the purpose of transferring to a second private party. (2010) (2019)
17

18 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes the use of government condemnation powers to seize
19 private property for recreation trails. (2010) (2019)
20

21 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation that would prohibit the legislature from
22 passing their responsibilities of future legislators to bureaucrats and employees of the state.
23 (2021)
24

25 **RECREATION**

27

26
27 Vermont Farm Bureau believes farm and forestlands are first and foremost for farm and
28 forest production.

29 Furthermore, we do acknowledge many private property owners voluntarily allow public access
30 to their land for recreation of all kinds and for public rights of way and in return it is fair and
31 reasonable the following conditions apply to such access:

- 32 1. Property owner permission must be obtained;
- 33 2. Information or data gathered with the voluntary participation of the private
34 property owner belongs first to the property owner who gave permission for any
35 other proposed uses of the data;
- 36 3. The recreational use must be compatible with generally accepted farm and
37 forest practices;
- 38 4. Signage and informational materials should be made available to recreational
39 users to encourage respect for private property;
- 40 5. Costs of public recreation should be borne by the public;

1 6. Private support to help maintain and improve lands allowing public access
2 should be encouraged.

3
4 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation and regulation to preserve and facilitate
5 continued use of public lands including wilderness areas and other specifically designated areas
6 for horse trails, pack and saddle stock animals and other recreational pursuits. (2013)

7
8 **REGULATION**

28

9
10 Vermont Farm Bureau supports oversight of agriculture by VAAFM on all issues affecting
11 agriculture.

12 Furthermore, we support exempting agriculture from Act 250 as being fundamentally in the
13 public interest.

14
15 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a change in Act 250 when development is proposed ~~to~~
16 on land managed as agriculture or forestry any restrictions or conditions placed on the
17 development to obtain an Act 250 permit apply only to the portion of the property involved in
18 the development. Forestry and agricultural uses can continue without restrictions or
19 encumbrances. (2005)(2019) (2021)

20
21 Vermont Farm Bureau believes manure pits should not be assumed to be leaking unless
22 the assumption is verified by testing. (2011)

23
24 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the use of satellite manure storage. (2015) (2016)

25
26 Vermont Farm Bureau favors the right of landowners having the right to cut their trees
27 in the road right of way without having to get a permit from the town.

28
29 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislative changes creating a statute of limitations of
30 seven (7) years for state subdivision permit violations where such action was not willful and
31 where there is no threat to the public health and safety.

32
33 Vermont Farm Bureau recommends farm enterprises be exempt from the Labor and
34 Industry Public Building permitting requirements if:

- 35 1. Those enterprises are involved primarily in production, preparation or packaging
36 farm products harvested on the premises;
37 2. There is no substantial public access to the farm buildings other than by farm
38 workers.

39
40 Vermont Farm Bureau supports exempting existing gravel pits from Act 250 review.

1 Vermont Farm Bureau favors legislation to streamline the present environmental
2 permitting process by providing more information to permit applicants and avoiding
3 duplication, unnecessary delays and frivolous appeals.

4
5 Vermont Farm Bureau supports expedited approval for communications facilities
6 including cell towers, which may be based in or upon existing farm structures or land. (2001)

7
8 Vermont Farm Bureau supports maintaining the right of farmers to contract for cell
9 towers on conserved land without penalty. (2002)

10
11 Vermont Farm Bureau supports continuing efforts by the VAAFMM working with DEC to
12 streamline the burdensome permitting process for slaughterhouses in Vermont.

13
14 Vermont Farm Bureau supports exempting farms with fewer than ten employees from
15 OSHA regulations.

16
17 Vermont Farm Bureau supports reciprocity for pesticide applicators if they are certified
18 in a bordering state.

19
20 Vermont Farm Bureau believes criterion 9(b) regarding primary ag soils should be
21 eliminated from the Act 250 environmental development law.

22
23 Vermont Farm Bureau supports keeping responsibility for animal cruelty reporting,
24 investigations and enforcement on working farms in the VAAFMM where there is educated
25 knowledge of accepted animal practices. (2014) (2016)

26
27 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the inclusion of farm stands as agricultural buildings as
28 defined by the state regardless of the amount of sales or whether the land used for production
29 is contiguous to the stand as long as the stand sells farm products produced by the
30 farmer/farmers. (2015)

31
32 **RIGHT TO FARM AND PRACTICE FORESTRY**

29

33
34 Vermont Farm Bureau supports:

- 35 1. The right of Vermont private property owners to produce and market
36 agricultural products;
- 37 2. A farmer's right to choose agricultural methods including modern technologies,
38 providing that RAPS and AMPs are practiced; (2011)
- 39 3. Actions to ensure farmers are protected from undue liability and nuisance suits
40 when carrying out such practices;

- 1 4. Informing all purchasers of Vermont property of a private property owner’s
2 fundamental “right to farm” within RAPs;
- 3 5. VAAFAM establishing a variance process in regards to RAPs regulations. (2013)

4
5 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a right to practice forestry that will relieve landowners
6 from lawsuits for injury from normal forest operations. (2016)

7
8 Vermont Farm Bureau supports only the Secretary of Agriculture – not towns or other
9 municipalities – setting the stands for nuisance issues of noise, odor, traffic, flies and other
10 pests on all agricultural operations. (2008) (2015)

11
12 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the introduction of legislation requiring homebuyers
13 who move next to farms be informed that agriculture can be noisy, odoriferous, dusty and
14 farmers have a right to farm.
15 Furthermore, developers and real estate agents should be required to inform potential buyers
16 about Vermont’s Right to Farm whenever property changes hands. (2008)

17 Vermont Farm Bureau supports continuation of the Large, Medium and Small Farm
18 Operation laws with an appropriate level of review by the VAAFAM of all livestock operations
19 and the impacts these have on the environment and the community.
20 Furthermore, we will do whatever is necessary to keep all agriculture oversight within the
21 VAAFAM. (2011) (2019)

22
23 Vermont Farm Bureau resolves commercial farms encroached on by suburban areas
24 should not be subject to regulation under nuisance or noise laws and all existing regulatory
25 exemptions for on-going farm operations should be maintained.

26
27 Vermont Farm Bureau will continue to have an active role in protecting the Right to
28 Farm Law specifically by requesting all water quality laws be based on solid science. (2019)

29
30 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation to protect farm animal owners from being
31 held criminally liable for any accident caused by their roaming animals having escaped
32 confinement. (2016) (2017)

33
34 Vermont Farm Bureau will ask the legislature to strengthen Vermont’s Right to Farm
35 Law to protect farmers and farmland whose use has been modified yet still stays within
36 Vermont’s definition of farming (10 V.S.A. Section 6001(22)). (2016)

37
38 **SOLID WASTE/RESIDUALS**

39 **30**

1 Vermont Farm Bureau supports common sense approaches to Vermont’s solid waste
2 problems coming from locally developed solutions including marketing of recycle materials and
3 efficient handling of waste collection and transportation.

4 Furthermore, it would be especially helpful for simple and clear guidelines to achieve effective
5 waste disposal. We especially support:

- 6 1. Allowing farm-generated residuals composted on the farm to be done without
7 permits under RAPs;
- 8 2. Permitting of composting with guidelines for accepting compostable waste from
9 off a particular farm;
- 10 3. Encouragement of businesses assisting farms in disposal of farm residuals.
11 (2013)

12
13 Vermont Farm Bureau requests the VAAFM return to the position of composting of off-
14 farm food scraps on the farm as RAPs as long as the compost is principally used on the farm.
15 (2013)

16
17 **TAXATION – MISCELLANEOUS**

31

18
19 Vermont Farm Bureau favors repeal of inheritance taxes as they are an unfair second tax
20 on assets working against future generations being able to continue family farm operations.
21 Furthermore, we support increasing the federal exemption absent outright appeal. (2012)

22
23 Vermont Farm Bureau supports estate taxes on agricultural and forestland being based
24 on UVA rather than on fair market value.

25
26 Vermont Farm Bureau supports exempting farms from estate taxes upon the death of
27 the owner as long as the ownership stays within the family. (2011)

28
29 Vermont Farm Bureau supports simplification of the Federal Tax code. (2011)

30
31 Vermont Farm Bureau supports increasing the gift tax exemption of \$20,000 per person
32 per year.

33
34 Vermont Farm Bureau strongly supports continuation of the retail sales tax exemption
35 for agricultural items;
36 Furthermore, we oppose local or state taxes on farm machinery used for custom work. (2016)

37
38 Vermont Farm Bureau requests the Legislature clarify exempt purchases for agricultural
39 uses and any past purchases be grandfathered in except in the most egregious of cases. (2014)

1 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the drafting of legislation that would allow motorized
2 vehicles registered as agricultural vehicles to be exempt from Vermont sales tax. (2005)

3
4 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes the addition of a sales tax to gasoline. (2011)

5
6 Vermont Farm Bureau believes the State of Vermont should eliminate the state capital
7 gains tax on the first \$10,000 on long-term investment.

8
9 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes the minimum entity tax on partnerships.

10
11 Vermont Farm Bureau believes college expenses should be deductible expenses on
12 individual tax returns.

13
14 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a sales tax exemption for building materials used for
15 agricultural construction and/or renovations. (2012) (2013)

16
17 Vermont Farm Bureau oppose a federal value-added tax. (2009)

18 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the rebate of state tax paid on fuel used in vehicles
19 registered with an agricultural plate. (2009)

20
21 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the repeal which requires small businesses issue a 1099
22 to all vendors and service providers who supply more than \$600 per year. (2012)

23
24 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes any proposal for a freestanding carbon tax;
25 Furthermore, a tax based on the carbon content of fuel might be entertained to the extent it
26 replaces all other taxes on fuels and the proceeds are dedicated to transportation
27 infrastructure in a similar fashion to existing fuel taxes. (2016) (2017) (2018)

28
29 **TAXATION – PROPERTY**

32

30
31 Vermont Farm Bureau supports elimination of the Vermont land gains tax from land
32 sold for agricultural use. (2005)

33
34 Vermont Farm Bureau supports UVA for all land growing farm and forest products. This
35 should be Vermont tax policy and not a program. (2011) (2015) (2016)

36
37 Vermont Farm Bureau reaffirms policy supporting Current Use and asks the Legislature
38 study a change to UVA as a policy of the state this biennium. (2020)

39
40 Vermont Farm Bureau requests that all Current Use Recertification forms be mailed to
41 all owners to prevent a person from unknowingly losing their Current Use status. (2020) (2021)

1
2 Vermont Farm Bureau believes farm and forestland should not carry the burden of
3 funding education and residential property should share equally in supporting education.
4

5 Vermont Farm Bureau proposes agricultural structures – including qualified equine
6 structures – be exempt from the property tax. (2017)
7

8 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes capital gains tax policy giving a competitive advantage to
9 Land Trusts and environmental groups in the purchase of rural land and other property. (2003)
10

11 Vermont Farm Bureau strongly supports the UVA system and encourages efforts to
12 improve the integrity and public perceptions about this vitally important system of tax equity.
13 Furthermore, we resolve to encourage better understanding of the vital role agriculture plays in
14 the state’s economy and the role programs such as UVA play in agriculture’s sustainability.
15 (2014)
16

17 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes any substantial adjustments which would have a
18 detrimental effect on participants in the UVA program. (2017)
19

20 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes connecting water quality initiative penalties with the
21 voluntary and contractual UVA program. (2015) (2016) (2017) (2018) (2021)
22

23 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the ability of UVA land to be posted like any other.
24 (2015)
25

26 Vermont Farm Bureau supports defining equine farm income to include Vermont
27 diverse equine activities such as boarding horses, therapeutic riding and lessons. (2016)
28

29 Vermont Farm Bureau supports permanent continuation of UVA at values established by
30 the Current Use Advisory Board.
31

32 Vermont Farm Bureau supports allowing participants of the UVA program to exit with
33 no penalty if the present program is changed in any way;
34 Furthermore, we support reducing or removing the penalty on land removed from UVA.
35

36 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes restrictions such as public access without owner
37 permission, including the posting of the property and urge:

- 38 1) “potential” and “prospective” be deleted from the definition of appraisal value;
- 39 2) Property assessments should reflect encumbrances and restrictions imposed by law
40 or regulation, including easements, Accepted Management Practices, Required
41 Agricultural Practices, EPA regulations and zoning/town plans;

- 1 3) Farm and Forestland should be assessed at its ability to produce food and fiber;
- 2 4) Elimination of education taxes on working farm and forest lands; (2002)
- 3 5) Participants in UVA not be disqualified if their lands are operated for the purposes of
- 4 fee hunting and fishing. (2003)

5
6 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the concept of land fully conserved by grants of
7 conservation easements should be valued on the Grand List at Use Value and not included in
8 the UVA Program. (2010)

9
10 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the lien placed against the deed of a UVA Program
11 participant to be considered under law as a binding contract. (2011) (2016)

12
13 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) to consist only of the
14 landowner refunding a five year benefit on the affected deed in the event land is considered to
15 be developed and withdrawn from the UVA Program by reason of a gift to a relative or
16 employee. (2010) (2019)

17 Vermont Farm Bureau supports policy such that when excluding land from the UVA
18 program, said land should not be appraised as a free-standing parcel in violation of honest
19 appraisal. (2016) (2019)

20
21 Vermont Farm Bureau supports allowing a landowner in the UVA Program to relocate an
22 undeveloped, withdrawn site of two acres or less once within an enrolled parcel without
23 incurring the Land Use Change Tax and provided there is no reduction in the area of enrolled
24 land. (2011)

25
26 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the State setting the penalty for land withdrawn from
27 the UVA Program and not the individual Town Listers. (2011)

28
29 Vermont Farm Bureau supports establishment of an appeal process within the
30 Department of Forests and Parks in relation to the UVA Program to allow an appeal of an
31 adverse inspection report before disenrollment from the Program. (2012) (2013)

32
33 Vermont Farm Bureau supports fixing the Current Use penalty so it can be known in
34 advance and that it is administered fairly across the state.
35 Furthermore, we support going back to the equalized, listed, prorated value formula used in the
36 past. (2019)

37
38 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes taking funds from the Property Tax Abatement Programs
39 for other purposes. (2012)

1
2 Vermont Farm Bureau asks the appropriate authorities to develop agricultural highway
3 signage warning motorists they are in a farming area and to be on the alert for agricultural
4 activities. (2016)
5

6 Vermont Farm Bureau supports sufficient resources be allocated to maintain a strong
7 transportation infrastructure that will also support the movement of agricultural products in
8 our region. (2007)
9

10 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a waiver from interstate weight limits for trucks with
11 agricultural or forestry products. (2009)
12

13 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a thorough revision of VTRANS rules affecting truck
14 weights, axle configurations, safety improvements in truck design and other technical issues to
15 make possible easy interstate and international commerce. (2015)
16

17 Vermont Farm Bureau supports harmonizing Vermont truck weight laws with those of
18 neighboring states and provinces. (2017)
19

20 Vermont Farm Bureau supports making state engineers available to evaluate wooden
21 deck bridges on a case-by-case basis if some appeals the weight limits and safety. (2017)
22

23 Vermont Farm Bureau would like the VTRANS to understand the economic disadvantage
24 Vermont farmers and other businesses using our rail system are at compared to other
25 businesses in neighboring states. (The Vermont rail system cannot handle rail cars weighing
26 286,000 pounds which is the national guide which results in increasing freight rates to
27 Vermonters.) (2015) (2019)
28

29 Vermont Farm Bureau supports state statutes which provide the right to safe access for
30 all agricultural practices and the right to public access to sell agricultural products (including but
31 not limited to dairy products, produce, maple syrup, horticulture and forestry) across railroad
32 crossings. (2009) (2016) (2017)
33

34 Vermont Farm Bureau supports grandfathering all farming activities involving a railroad
35 crossing as of 1/1/2009. (2008) (2016) (2017)
36

37 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation:

- 38 1. Ensuring the State identifies and inspects for safety all farm crossings,
39 including the storage of hazardous materials;
- 40 2. Prohibiting the storage of freight cars and tankers impairing the visibility at
41 farm crossings;

- 1 3. Ensuring timely information for farmers about train schedules at farm
- 2 crossings;
- 3 4. Supporting farmer education on farm crossing safety;
- 4 5. Requiring the State to review insurance policies held by railway companies
- 5 and to revise the lease requirements regarding liability coverage at farm
- 6 crossings. (2017)

7
8 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the unrestricted right of vehicles involved in natural
9 resource industries to travel Vermont roads and highways consistent with the public health and
10 safety.

11 Furthermore, specialized equipment used to apply materials to crops or to harvest crops should
12 be considered agricultural vehicles for the purpose of registration and permits.

13
14 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a mechanism enabling farmers and custom operators to
15 purchase highway diesel fuel tax-free at the point of purchase. (2006)

16
17 Vermont Farm Bureau supports allowing tandem trailers on interstate highways and
18 also supports permitting trucks with agricultural or forest product overweight permits authority
19 to use interstate highways (where feasible) to substantially shorten trips. (2006)

20
21 Vermont Farm Bureau supports increased VTRANS focus on needed repair and
22 maintenance on state highways and bridges. (2015)

23
24 Vermont Farm Bureau recommends interstate highways allow the same weight limits
25 presently allowed on all secondary highways.

26
27 Vermont Farm Bureau supports increased VTRANS focus on repair and maintenance of
28 right of way fences along the Interstate system bordering land where animals are actively being
29 pastured, not only for the safety of motorists but also to fulfill the promise made to landowners
30 when the system was built. (2013)

31
32 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation to provide reciprocal agreements,
33 regulations and laws for truck travel between all New England states and New York.

34
35 Vermont Farm Bureau supports cooperation between town and state highway officials
36 and local farmers to develop reasonable solutions to problems such as left-hand turns by farm
37 machinery.

38 Furthermore, we also support educating drivers about slow-moving vehicle signs in driver's
39 manuals and public information campaigns.

40

1 Vermont Farm Bureau supports continued improvement of U.S. Route 2 as the primary
2 east-west corridor through northern New England.

3
4 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a sales tax exemption on trucks registered as
5 agricultural. (2007)

6
7 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the availability of natural gas for cars and trucks.

8
9 Vermont Farm Bureau supports continuation of the weight limit exemption of ag service
10 vehicles (feed, fertilizers and ag trucks). (2005)

11
12 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages a cooperative effort between the farming community
13 and Vermont law enforcement to improve awareness, understanding and voluntary compliance
14 regarding laws regulating flying debris from mobile equipment. (2003)

15
16 Vermont Farm Bureau supports excluding incidents involving farm tractors on drivers'
17 records when the farmer/employee is not at fault. (2003)

18 Vermont Farm Bureau believes a farmer delivering product processed on the farm for
19 retail sale in his own truck should not be required to meet CDL or hours of service
20 requirements. (2006)

21
22 Vermont Farm Bureau requests vehicle inspections need to be made simpler for the
23 inspector which will make the process less expensive for those getting inspections. (2019)

24
25 **UVM AND VTC**

34

26
27 Vermont Farm Bureau seeks greater commitment from the UVM Extension Service to
28 engage with concerns of the working farm and forest communities and welcomes dialogue
29 about the future of the UVM Extension. (2016)

30
31 Vermont Farm Bureau supports UVM and VTC maintaining their dairy and livestock
32 programs for the purpose of hands-on experiential student learning in all phases of farming.
33 (2011) (2016)

34
35 Vermont Farm Bureau supports adequate funding of the UVM Extension Service and
36 offer our support to maintain its specialized ability to work with the agricultural and rural
37 communities, particularly in subject areas and localities not serviced by other agencies. (2011)
38 (2015) (2021)

39
40 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages UVM Extension Service to add dairy and livestock
41 specialists. (2016)

1
2 Vermont Farm Bureau supports all efforts of UVM to strengthen Vermont agriculture
3 and acknowledges its “land grant” origins while urging UVM leadership to be guided in key
4 policy decisions by its agricultural heritage.

5 We further believe UVM should:

- 6 1. Make the educational needs of Vermonters its priority;
- 7 2. Expand and improve the four-year agricultural program at an affordable
8 tuition;
- 9 3. Retain the title of the agricultural school in perpetuity and keep Vermont’s
10 agricultural community as its primary focus.

11
12 Vermont Farm Bureau urges UVM to reaffirm Vermont’s agricultural heritage of working
13 forests by re-attaining their accreditation by the Society for American Foresters. (2010)

14
15 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages UVM Extension to provide water quality specialists
16 for all Vermont watersheds. (2019) (2021)

17
18 Vermont Farm Bureau supports making the Secretary of VAAFM (or his or her designee)
19 a permanent member of the UVM Board of Trustees. (2008)

20
21 Vermont Farm Bureau asks UVM and all state colleges to require all students to take a
22 course offered by the College of Agriculture covering issues such as how food is produced, what
23 is required for inputs and how much land is needed to feed the world in a fair and balanced
24 way. (2011)

25
26 Vermont Farm Bureau requests the Governor appoint at least one active farmer to the
27 UVM Board of Trustees. (2011)

28
29 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages UVM Extension to fill the vacant specialist positions
30 in agronomy, livestock, dairy and Production Agriculture Specialists in all areas of the state.
31 (2017) (2019)

32
33 Vermont Farm Bureau supports an apprenticeship program to train slaughterhouse
34 personnel by UVM, VTC, vocational centers or any combination thereof. (2012)

35
36 Vermont Farm Bureau supports an agriculture teaching program at VTC in conjunction
37 with a state college teaching program. (2009)

38
39 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the continued operation of a dairy herd at VTC for
40 educational purposes. (2010) (2016) (2019)

2
3 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes the rulemaking of the Clean Water Restoration Act
4 (HR2421) of 2007 which provides regulatory authority to the EPA over all water and requiring
5 the enforcement of Clean Water Act requirements. (2007)

6
7 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes state or federal designation of ground water as a public
8 trust. (2006)

9
10 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the right of private property owners to repair flood
11 damage with prompt permission from NRCS without lengthy permitting processes and to be
12 able to remove gravel from streams without yard limits in cooperation with the Army Corps of
13 Engineers.

14
15 Vermont Farm Bureau resolves the RAPs should recognize buffers at no greater than 25
16 feet along rivers and streams and rescind any requirement of more than a 10 foot buffer for
17 any ditch or seasonal watercourse. (2018)

18 Vermont Farm Bureau resolves a 25 foot buffer requirement be maintained and only
19 required on waterways with year-round running water. (2008)

20
21 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes any use of any Citizens Right of Action as a way to
22 enforce water quality. (2018)

23
24 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the development of a plan to allocate funds earmarked
25 for water quality through the Agency of Agriculture and the Agency of Natural Resources.
26 (2018)

27
28 Vermont Farm Bureau supports easing restrictions allowing landowners to keep the
29 water channels and stream banks clear so the 100-year flood stage does not turn from the 100-
30 year flood to a 30 or 15- year flood which could cause bridges to become dams and could cause
31 homes to become isolated from emergency care and fire protection. (2011)

32
33 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes inclusion of state rivers in the federal Wild and Scenic
34 River program.

35 Furthermore, we urge buffer zones adjacent to major rivers in Vermont not be larger than 25
36 feet unless an easement is purchased from the landowner so affected.

37
38 Vermont Farm Bureau supports excluding land set aside in buffer strips from property
39 taxation since its economic use has been excluded.

40

1 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the Lake Champlain Basin Committee redirect funding from
2 such efforts as implementing a TMDL analysis and watershed planning and focus instead on
3 implementing solutions to known causes of phosphorous runoff which includes urban and
4 suburban sources. (2001)

5
6 Vermont Farm Bureau asks that Biochar be recognized as a material to capture
7 phosphorus from run-off and as a soil conditioner. (2021)

8
9 Vermont Farm Bureau supports further study and review of plans to regulate tile
10 drainage on farms to comply with RAPs. (2017)

11
12 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation to fund the Vermont Clean Water Fund by
13 raising all monies in an equitable way with all persons receiving the benefits of clean water to
14 contribute to same. (2017)

15
16 Vermont Farm Bureau supports continued funding for the implementation of RAPs and
17 that VAAFM make available matching funds to all types of farming for non-point source water
18 pollution control.
19 Furthermore, these funds should be available for any farm construction of pollution control and
20 containment equipment or structures. (2010) (2019)

21
22 Vermont Farm Bureau opposes any attempt to assess fees for water withdrawal for
23 recreational, commercial, municipal or agricultural use. (2001)

24
25 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the development of free market contracts for water
26 quality amelioration to allow cooperative solutions agreed to among responsible parties.
27 (2015)

28
29 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the RAPs regarding partial exclusion of livestock from
30 Vermont's Waters of the State but does not want the RAPS to permanently exclude livestock
31 from Waters of the State. (2016)

32
33 Vermont Farm Bureau supports doing a cost benefit analysis for new water quality
34 projects based on removing the most nutrients for the least cost. (2019) (2021)

35
36 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages state and federal agencies with appropriate
37 jurisdiction to align their rules and regulations, permitting and site visits regarding water quality
38 to gain efficiency for farmers and administrators. (2019)

39
40 **WETLANDS**

1 Vermont Farm Bureau strongly supports:

- 2 1. NRCS as the sole organization for agricultural wetland issues and
- 3 delineations;
- 4 2. Including hay land in the delineation of crops for the purpose of establishing
- 5 prior converted wetlands;
- 6 3. NRCS being part of the USDA and not any other national agency. (2019)

7
8 Vermont Farm Bureau urges the state and federal governments to implement a
9 definition based on sound scientific evidence for protected wetlands which does not include
10 artificially-created farm ponds, beaver dams or drainage ditches.

11 Furthermore, we ask for a clarification of wetlands regulations to ensure land defined as
12 wetlands is wet, that is, completely saturated for at least a majority of days in the growing
13 season in a year of average rainfall; land which is dry for the majority of the growing season in
14 a year of average rainfall should not be classified as wetland.

15
16 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the conversion of insignificant Class 2 wetlands for
17 agricultural purposes by the granting of general use permits. (2001)

18
19 Vermont Farm Bureau believes private property owners should be compensated when
20 restrictions are placed on private wetlands. (2007)

21
22 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the current definition of wetlands in Vermont State Law
23 Title 10, Chapter 37, Section 902(5): "Wetlands" means those areas of the state that are
24 inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support significant
25 vegetation or aquatic life that depend on saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for
26 growth and reproduction. Such areas include but are not limited to marshes, swamps, sloughs,
27 potholes, fens, river and lake overflows, mud flats, bogs and ponds but exclude such areas as
28 grow food or crops in connection with farming activities. (2007)

29
30 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the expanded definition of lands used for food or crops
31 to include farm roads, feed or manure-stacking areas, cattle trails, water quality improvements
32 and farm structures. (2018)

33
34 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the use of Federal guidelines ONLY for wetland
35 delineation for areas growing food or crops in connection with farming activities. (2019)

36
37 **WILDLIFE**

37

38
39 Vermont Farm Bureau believes the designation of the entire Connecticut River
40 Watershed as the Silvio Conte National Refuge has serious implications for farming and
41 forestry. We support efforts to

- 1 1. Remove farm and forestland from the refuge;
- 2 2. Address the concerns of landowners and private property owners;
- 3 3. Protect agricultural and forestry operations in the watershed from adverse impacts
- 4 of refuge activities;
- 5 4. Coordinate activities of the Farm Bureaus of Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut
- 6 and Massachusetts to address these concerns;
- 7 5. Restrict the introduction or reintroduction of any plant or animal species onto state-
- 8 or federal-owned land in the Silvio Conte Refuge.

9
10 Vermont Farm Bureau recommends 10% of the moose permits be issued to resident
11 applicants of the management unit in which the moose hunt is to be held.

12 Furthermore, we support legislation allowing the legal taking of a moose, turkey, deer or bear
13 which is causing damage to crops, fences, agricultural structures or other valuable property by
14 the property owner or his designee on their property and to increase the season length and
15 number of turkeys to be taken each year. (2003) (2013)

16
17 Vermont Farm Bureau requests regulation of trapping continue to be overseen by the
18 Vermont Wildlife Advisory Board and by the wildlife biologists employed by the Department of
19 Wildlife.

20 Furthermore, we oppose expanding the Advisory Board to include members of the public
21 whose only interest is in halting all trapping and hunting. (2017)

22 Vermont Farm Bureau urges AFBF to oppose the authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
23 Service to enforce the Endangered Species Act.

24
25 Vermont Farm Bureau supports the right of farmers to protect land and assets on the
26 farm from damage caused by beavers on or off their own land through directing jurisdiction to
27 the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife to respond to landowner requests, providing a
28 solution to the problem and resolving landowner disputes. (2002)

29
30 Vermont Farm Bureau supports regular application of lampricide to Vermont streams or
31 rivers feeding Lake Champlain. (2011)

32
33 **WORLD TRADE**

38

34
35 Vermont Farm Bureau supports a level playing field for imports of meat, dairy and other
36 agricultural products, including policy to:

- 37 1. Applying U.S. domestic standards for safety, quality and labeling;
- 38 2. Levying duties to offset foreign subsidies;
- 39 3. Implementing country of origin labeling;
- 40 4. Mandating use of ingredient contents in accounting for import quotas for food
- 41 products;

- 1 5. Applying an assessment on all imported dairy products for dairy promotion
- 2 equivalent to that paid on domestic products;
- 3 6. Charging \$1.00 per head for beef promotion, including all imported beef to be
- 4 distributed in the U.S.

5
6 Vermont Farm Bureau resolves the United States should not allow imports of animal
7 products from nations harboring foot and mouth disease or from countries receiving and
8 transshipping such products. (2011)

9
10 Vermont Farm Bureau encourages the development and support of federal and state
11 programs to enhance the ability of private and cooperative businesses in exporting farm
12 products, including value-added products such as dairy.
13 Furthermore, new entrants into the export market should be encouraged, rather than stifled, as
14 under current USDA rules; specifically, USDA should revoke the rule requiring previous export
15 experience.

16
17 Vermont Farm Bureau requests the United States not allow dairy products requiring U.S.
18 Grade A sanitary standards be imported from nations lacking Grade A inspection of their dairy
19 farms, milk transportation systems and dairy processing plants. (2005)

20
21 Vermont Farm Bureau supports agricultural reciprocity with all nations, provided these
22 nations have the same regulations on health and safety of their food. (2010)

23
24 Vermont Farm Bureau supports legislation that would prevent states and local
25 jurisdictions from interfering with the production and distribution of agricultural products in
26 interstate or foreign commerce. (2021)

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