

nual collection point in each region of Maryland for the disposal of old chemicals, chemical containers, paint, batteries and all other hazardous waste materials.

We urge the Department of Agriculture to establish a recovery program for banned chemicals.

Farmers should not be held liable for any environmental residues or water contaminated by a farm chemical if the chemical was federally approved and used according to label instructions.

Furthermore, we believe the use of pesticides should be regulated by available facts, not on emotional issues.

We support Federal law regarding crop protectant usage within 50 feet of wells. The permit process of local government should not allow wells to be placed within 50 feet of an agricultural property line, thus ensuring the safety of the water as well as the farmer's right to farm his property.

We recommend a universal definition be developed for a "congested area" related to aerial spraying, so that crops can be treated in a timely and effective manner.

We support legislation that provides for the pesticide laws to be regulated only by the State or Federal government.

Maryland Farm Bureau supports the voluntary expansion of integrated pest management programs in the state, and encourages research to develop biological pest controls. #96

Environmental Surcharge

We are opposed to any state tax or surcharge on fertilizers and crop protectants to fund environmental programs. This would put Maryland farmers and agri-business at an economic disadvantage to farmers and business in surrounding states.

DAIRY INDUSTRY

We support funding in the state budget for the Dairy Farm Nutrient and Business Management Initiative. #99

We support funding for the Maryland Dairy Quality Management Alliance - a multi-state regional alliance. #2001

Dairy Council

We support the concept of the Maryland Producers Council as long as the membership is voluntary. #2000

Milk Marketing

We support the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Milk Marketing Agency in negotiating over order pricing for milk. #97

We support proposed Maryland legislation that would institute fair trade regulations for dairy products. This legislation would combat current predatory marketing practices from processors protected by similar legislation in adjacent states by giving the Secretary of Agriculture the regulatory authority to establish minimum prices received by farmer producers, wholesalers and retailers. The Secretary should exercise this authority in consultation with an advisory committee. We suggest that any proposed legislation include a sunset provision to allow for a legislative review of a program. #2000

We support legislation enabling Maryland to join a regional Dairy Compact establishing an interstate fluid milk pricing system. #97

We support a sell-by-period of 14 days with the opportunity given to processors to establish their own sell-by-period, provided they submit to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene an indicator shelf-life study which shows that the dairy products have a shelf-life equal to the sell-by date plus an additional seven days.

We believe schools should not sell milk to students after the sell-by date.

We support the continuation of the cooperative promotion efforts of the dairy farmers in the State of Maryland.

Dairy Inspection

We support efforts to establish reasonable sanitary regulations for all Grade B Dairies.

We support the establishment of a milk control advisory board with the specific responsibility for helping the appropriate regulatory agency develop efficient, effective, quality control programs for the entire Maryland dairy industry.

We recommend moving the milk control and inspection program responsibilities from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to the Maryland Department of Agriculture. #2000

DREDGE SPOIL

We support immediate measures to expedite the dredging of Baltimore Harbor, which would improve ship traffic and benefit the state's economy.

When deposit sites are needed, dredge spoil shall be used to replenish low areas that were once highland that are now wet or have eroded away. #98

We oppose dumping of dredge spoils into open water. #99

EFFLUENT TRADING

We oppose any form of effluent trading for the compliance for nutrient reductions from point sources of pollution in lieu of Biological Nutrient Reduction (BNR) upgrading or delaying of any sewage treatment facility upgrades. #2000

ENDANGERED SPECIES

We support a voluntary conservation habitat reserve program that would provide incentives for landowners to establish and maintain habitat for endangered species. #97

Compensation shall be provided for landowners where use of the land is restricted by the Endangered Species Act.

We urge the state to eliminate from the list those species (threatened or endangered) that might have limited numbers in Maryland but are common elsewhere.

Endangered species protection should not go beyond those species protected by federal law.

Any plant or animal that is taken as a result of an agricultural practice shall be considered an incidental taking. #97

ENERGY POLICY

We do not support mandates requiring the use of "green" energy. #2001

Ethanol & Bio-Diesel Fuel

We support an energy independence and efficiency policy to include: (1) fast track approval of site, environmental issues, funding and approval of renewable energy sources; (2) the use of renewable fuels in county, state and federal automobile fleets; and (3) support for the construction of an ethanol plant in Maryland. #2001

We urge the use of some ethanol in gasoline and soy diesel in diesel fuel.

We urge a statewide ban on Methyl 1 Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) because of water quality concerns raised in scientific studies. We encourage the use of ethanol in its place. #2001

We encourage the Maryland Transit Authority to consider the use of soy diesel fuel in their mass transit vehicles. We further recommend the State Highway Administration use it in all diesel-fueled equipment. We encourage the maritime industries to use bio-diesel fuel on the Chesapeake Bay and in other Maryland waterways. #98

We strongly believe that public officials need to seriously consider the opportunities and potential for increasing local or domestic demand of commodities through the production of Ethanol E-85. #2000

We recommend that the Maryland Department of Transportation make changes to guidelines so that current E85 (85% blend gasoline/ethanol) models may be used in fleets to meet alternative fuel mandates. #98

ENVIRONMENTAL STANDING

We recommend no changes be made to Maryland's "Standing Law," which negatively affects the state's economy and the private property rights of individuals. #97

EQUINE INDUSTRY

We support the inclusion of inventories of the various classes of equine in the state in future MDA and NASS agriculture statistical surveys. #2000

FAMILY VALUES

Family values are becoming more of a concern and teenage vandalism and violence seems to be on the increase. These acts of destruction affect all segments of society.

We recommend that the Maryland legislature and the Governor should:

- 1.) Pass legislation to make parents more accountable for the destructive action of their children.
- 2.) Have the party involved more monetarily liable for the destructive action they cause. If they are financially unable to pay, they should do so through community service. The monetary amount should be determined and paid in full.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY - COUNTY COMMITTEES

We recommend that the State FSA Administration grant more power to the county committees to adequately staff county offices. #2000

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Financial disclosure laws tend to discourage capable people from seeking public office. Therefore, we recommend that financial disclosure laws be rescinded or eliminated.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Maryland Farm Bureau is concerned about the purchase of farmland by investors who are foreign nationals. We believe land purchases by foreign investors should be closely monitored. We insist that foreign investors be required to conform to all United States Tax laws and the import and export regulations applicable to American producers.

FOREST CONSERVATION

The Forest Conservation Act of 1991 has far reaching language, including reforestation lands cleared for development and afforestation, which means planting trees where no trees have existed for many years. We urge amending the Forest Conservation act to remove the afforestation section completely. We urge state government to recognize the difference between rural low-density development and urban high-density development in relation to tree conservation. The percentage of reforestation needs to be based on actual forest that is destroyed, rather than the present threshold percentage of parcels. We urge communication with other adversely affected groups to amend the law.

We oppose county ordinances that are more restrictive than state regulations with regards to the harvesting of trees.

FOOD STAMPS

We support the effort of the federal government to provide families in need a means to exclusively purchase staple foods. #2000

Items purchased by food stamps should be limited to the four basic food groups. Food purchased with food stamps should not be allowed to be returned for cash. We support the use of a reliable electronic benefit system using debit cards to distribute food stamp benefits. #2000

We support the Maryland Farmer Market WIC Coupon Program and ask the U.S. Congress to provide funding for the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program so that with the help of the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, this project can be continued in 1996.

GAMBLING

We oppose commercial casino gambling in the State of Maryland. #97

We support Maryland's horse industry and their endeavor to gain slot machine gambling at Maryland racetracks. #98