Policy Statement

of the

National Farmers Union

Adopted by Delegates
to the 55th Annual Convention

November 2024

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NFU Charter

18-19 ELIZABETH II

CHAPTER 80

An Act to incorporate National Farmers Union

[Assented to 11th June, 1970]

Preamble

WHEREAS the persons hereinafter named, together with the Manitoba Farmers Union, a body corporate created by an enactment of the legislature of the province of Manitoba to which Royal Assent was given on the 18th day of April, 1953, the Saskatchewan Farmers Union, a body corporate created by an enactment of the legislature of the province of Saskatchewan to which Royal Assent was given on the 7th day of February, 1927, the Farmers Union of British Columbia, a society incorporated pursuant to the Societies Act, R.S.B.C., 1948, chapter 311, by registration on the 4th day of July, 1961, and the Ontario Farmers Union, an unincorporated body, have by their petition prayed that it be enacted as hereinafter set forth, and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the petition: Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

Incorporation

1. Roy R. Atkinson, farmer, of the city of Saskatoon, Evelyn Potter, housewife, of the town of Biggar, Jack McCloy, farmer, of the town of Weldon, Winifred Miller, housewife, of the town of Allan, Frank J. Dietz, farmer, of the town of Loreburn, and Vic Althouse, farmer, of the town of Nut Mountain, all in the province of Saskatchewan, Walter M. Miller, farmer of the town of Tara, Peter Twynstra, farmer, of the town of Ailsa Craig, Otto Prues, farmer, of the Town of Elmwood, Jerry G. Huzevka, farmer, of the town of

18-19 ELIZABETH II

CHAPITRE 80

Loi constituant en corporation le Syndicat National des Cultivateurs

[Sanctionnée le 11 juin 1970]

Préambule

CONSIDÉRANT que les personnes ci-après nommées, ainsi que le Syndicat des cultivateurs du Manitoba, corps constitué par un décret de la Législature de la province du Manitoba, qui a reçu la sanction royale le 18 avril 1953, le Syndicat des cultivateurs de la Saskatchewan, corps constitué par un décret de la Législature de la province de la Saskatchewan, qui a reçu sa sanction le 7 février 1927, le Syndicat des cultivateurs de la Colombie-Britannique, société constituée en corporation en vertu de la Societies Act, S.R. C.-B., 1948, chapitre 311, enregistré le 4 juillet 1961, et le Syndicat des cultivateurs d'Ontario, corps non constitué, ont, par voie de pétition, demandé l'établissement des dispositions législatives ci-dessous énoncées et qu'il est opportun d'accéder à cette demande: A ces causes, Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et du consentement du Sénat et de la Chambre des comunes du Canada, décrète:

Constitution en corporation

1. Roy R. Atkinson, cultivateur, de la cité de Saskatoon, Evelyne Potter, ménagère, de la ville de Biggar, Jack McCloy, cultivateur, de la ville de Weldon, Winnifred Miller, ménagère, de la ville d'Allan, Frank J. Dietz, cultivateur, de la ville de Loreburn, et Vic Althouse, cultivateur, de la ville de Nut Mountain, tous de la province de la Saskatchewan, Walter M. Miller, cultivateur, de la ville de Tara, Peter Twynstra, cultivateur, de la ville d'Ailsa Craig, Otto Prues, cultivateur, de la ville d'Elmwood, Jerry G. Huzevka, cultivateur,

Petrolia, William T. Langdon, farmer, of the town of Lakeside, and Blake Sanford, farmer, of the town of Kingsville, all in the province of Ontario, Phil Schwarz, farmer, of the town of St. Norbert, Kay Dyck, housewife, of the town of Headingly, John F. Palamarchuck, farmer, of the town of Silver, and Kenneth J. Singleton, farmer, of the city of Winnipeg, all in the province of Manitoba, Albert M. Simmons, farmer, of the town of Dawson Creek, and Albin B. Peirce, farmer, of the town of Rolla, in the province of British Columbia, Stuart Affleck, farmer, of the town of Bedeque, in the province of Prince Edward Island, Jack Brooks, farmer, of the town of Arthurette, in the province of New Brunswick, and Alfred Nieforth, farmer, of the town of Milford Station, in the province of Nova Scotia, being persons specifically named, together with all of the other existing members of the Manitoba Farmers Union, the Saskatchewan Farmers Union, the Farmers Union of British Columbia and the Ontario Farmers Union are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic under the name of National Farmers Union and, in French, Syndicat National des Cultivateurs, hereinafter called "the Union", together with all such other persons as may hereafter become members.

Corporate name

de la ville de Petrolia, William T. Langdon, cultivateur, de la ville de Lakeside et Blake Sanford, cultivateur, de la ville de Kingsville, tous de la province d'Ontario, Phil Schwarz, cultivateur, de la ville de St-Norbert, Kay Dyck, ménagère, de la ville de Headingly, John F. Palamarchuck, cultivateur, de la ville de Silver, et Kenneth J. Singleton, cultivateur, de la cité de Winnipeg, tous de la province du Manitoba, Albert M. Simmons, cultivateur, de la ville de Dawson Creek, et Albin B. Peirce, cultivateur, de la ville de Rolla, dans la province de la Colombie-Britannique, Stuart Affleck, cultivateur, de la ville de Bedeque, province de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Jack Brooks, cultivateur, de la ville d'Arthurette, province du Nouveau-Brunswick, et Alfred Nieforth, cultivateur, de la ville de Milford Station, province de la Nouvelle-Écosse, étant les personnes nommées spécifiquement, ainsi que tous les autres membres existants du Syndicat des cultivateurs du Manitoba, du Syndicat des cultivateurs de la Saskatchewan, du Syndicat des cultivateurs de la Colombie-Britannique, du Syndicat des cultivateurs de l'Ontario, et toutes les autres personnes qui deviendront membres, sont constitués en corporation sous le nom de Syndicat National des Cultivateurs, et en anglais, National Farmers Union, ci-après appelé le «Syndicat».

Raison sociale

Merger and amalgamation

2. (1) The Manitoba Farmers Union and the Saskatchewan Farmers Union, hereinafter referred to as the "predecessor corporations", are hereby merged and amalgamated with the Union and shall continue hereafter as one and the same corporate entity as and with the name of the Union.

(2) The merger and amalgamation of the Union with each of the predecessor corporations shall come into effect and be valid on and from the day on which each legislature having jurisdiction over such predecessor corporation has expressed its consent thereto.

(3) The Union may, by resolution, merge and amalgamate with any other

Fusion et amalgamation

2. (1) Le Syndicat des cultivateurs du Manitoba et le Syndicat des cultivateurs de la Saskatchewan, ci-après désignés sous le nom de «sociétés remplacées», sont par les présentes unis et associés, par fusion, au Syndicat et continuent d'exister par la suite comme une seule et même entité constituée sous le nom du Syndicat.

(2) La fusion et amalgamation du Syndicat avec les sociétés remplacées prennent effet et sont valides à la date où chaque législature dont relève respectivement la société remplacée exprime son consentement.

(3) Le Syndicat peut, par résolution, s'unir et s'associer, par fusion, avec une

provincially-incorporated corporation that has like or similar objects to those of the Union, or that, in the opinion of the directors, has purposes in common with those of the Union, upon consent thereto being given by the legislature having jurisdiction over such corporation.

(4) The Union shall be vested with all the property, rights and interests, and shall be subject to all the duties, liabilities and obligations of each of the predecessor corporations that has merged and amalgamated with the Union pursuant to subsection (1) or of any corporation that may merge and amalgamate with the Union pursuant to subsection (3).

Objects

3. The objects of the Union shall be:

(*a*) to promote the betterment of farmers in the attainment of their economic and social goals;

(*b*) to conduct projects for the benefit of farmers in the development of markets for and marketing of farm products;

(*c*) to achieve the reduction of costs and other measures designated to increase the economic benefits of farming;

(*d*) to conduct educational and research projects for the benefit of farmers;

(*e*) to promote and secure legislation and other forms of government action for the benefit of farmers;

(*f*) to promote a higher standard of community life in agriculture; and

(*g*) to provide services for its members consistent with its objects and work jointly with any other persons or organizations for the attainment of its objects.

Head office

4. (1) The head office of the Union shall be in the city of Winnipeg, in the province

autre société constituée en corporation dans une province dont les objets sont identiques ou semblables à ceux du Syndicat ou qui, de l'avis des administrateurs, a des fins communes avec celles du Syndicat, sur consentement à elle donné à cet effet par la législature dont relève cette société.

(4) Tous les biens, droits et intérêts doivent être dévolus au Syndicat et celui-ci doit être assujetti aux devoirs, engagements et obligations de chacune des sociétés remplacées qui se sont unies et associées, par fusion, au Syndicat conformément au paragraphe (1) ou de toute société qui peut s'unir ou s'associer, par fusion, avec le Syndicat conformément au paragraphe (3).

3. Le Syndicat a pour objet Objets

a) de promouvoir l'amélioration de la situation des cultivateurs en permettant à ceux-ci d'attendre les objectifs d'ordre économique et social qu'ils se sont fixés;

b) d'entreprendre des projets au profit des cultivateurs en développant des marchés pour les produits agricoles et en organisant le marché des produits agricoles;

c) de réaliser la réduction des coûts et autres mesures visant à augmenter les bénéfices économiques de l'exploitation agricole;

d) de diriger des projets de recherche et d'éducation au profit des cultivateurs;

e) de promouvoir et d'assurer des mesures législatives et autres formes d'initiative du gouvernement en faveur des cultivateurs;

f) de promouvoir un niveau de vie communautaire plus élevé dans le domaine de l'agriculture; et

g) de fournir à ses membres des services compatibles avec ses objets et de travailler conjointement avec d'autres personnes ou d'autres organismes à la réalisation de ses objets.

4. (1) Le siège social du Syndicat est établi en la cité de Winnipeg, province du Siège social

of Manitoba, or at such other place as may be decided by the Union.

(2) Notice in writing shall be given to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs by the Union of any change of the head office and such notice shall be published forthwith in the *Canada Gazette*.

Manitoba, ou à tel autre endroit que le Syndicat peut déterminer.

(2) Le Syndicat doit donner au ministre de la Consommation et des Corporations avis écrit de tout déplacement du siège social et cet avis doit être immédiatement publié dans la *Gazette du Canada*.

Board of directors

5. (1) The officers of the Union shall be managed by a board of directors elected or appointed in accordance with the by-laws of the Union.

Conseil d'administration

5. (1) Les dirigeants du Syndicat agissent sous la direction d'un conseil d'administration élu ou choisi conformément aux règlements administratifs du Syndicat.

Directors

(2) The first directors of the Union shall be the persons specifically named in section 1 of this Act.

Administrateurs

(2) Les premiers administrateurs du Syndicat sont les personnes spécifiquement nommées à l'article 1 de la présente loi.

By-laws

6. (1) The Union may from time to time, make such by-laws, rules and regulations, not contrary to law, as it deems necessary or advisable for the due carrying out of the purposes and objects of the Union, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may make by-laws, rules and regulations, with respect to:

Règlements administratifs

6. (1) Le Syndicat peut, à l'occasion, établir des règlements administratifs, des règles et règlements non contraires aux lois, qu'il juge nécessaires ou opportuns pour la réalisation des objets et fins du Syndicat, et sans restreindre la portée générale de ce qui précède, peut établir des règlements administratifs, règles et règlements relativement

(*a*) the qualifications and eligibility for membership or elected office;

a) aux qualités requises pour devenir membre et à l'aptitude pour être élu à une charge;

(*b*) the dues or other remuneration to be paid in relation to membership;

b) aux cotisations ou à toute autre rémunération à verser pour appartenir au Syndicat;

(*c*) the election, appointment, removal, functions, duties of directors, officers, servants or agents of the Union;

c) à l'élection, à la nomination, au renvoi, aux fonctions et devoirs des administrateurs, dirigeants, préposés ou mandataires du Syndicat;

(*d*) the administration, management and control of the property or other affairs of the Union;

d) à l'administration, à la gestion et au contrôle des biens ou autres affaires du Syndicat;

(*e*) the establishment and constitution of special and general committees of the Union;

e) à l'établissement et à la constitution de comités spéciaux et généraux du Syndicat;

(*f*) the quorum and procedure to be followed at all meetings of the Union, or subordinate or governing bodies; and

f) au quorum et à la procédure à suivre aux assemblées du Syndicat, aux conseils d'administration ou autres réunions mineures;

(*g*) the establishment of regions, branches, locals or other divisions of the Union and the management and constitution thereof.

g) à l'établissement de zones, succursales, unités locales ou autres divisions du Syndicat et à leur gestion et constitution.

(2) The first by-laws, rules and regulations of the Union shall be those adopted by the first directors, subject to the restrictions contained in subsection (1).

(2) Les premiers règlements administratifs, règles et règlements du Syndicat seront les règlements adoptés par les premiers administrateurs, sous réserve des restrictions contenues au paragraphe (1).

Powers

7. In addition to the general powers accorded to it by law, the Union shall have power:

(*a*) to purchase, lease, rent, hire, take in exchange, acquire by gift, legacy, device or otherwise, and to own, possess, hold, control, administer and develop, any property or rights, real or personal, movable or immovable, or any title, estate or interest therein, and to sell, exchange, alienate, administer, develop, mortgage, hypothecate, lease or otherwise deal therewith as it may deem advisable for the purposes of the Union;

(*b*) to borrow money for the purposes of the Union;

(*c*) to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills of exchange and other negotiable or transferable instruments;

(*d*) to invest and deal with the monies of the Union not immediately required in such manner as may be determined from time to time;

(*e*) to take, receive, accept or acquire subject to specific trust any property, rights or money, personal or real, movable or immovable, or any estate, title or interest therein, including any property or rights subject to a charge or incumbrance, and to keep, use, invest or dispose of such property, rights or money, according to the terms of the specific trust; and

(*f*) to do all such lawful acts and things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the object of and the exercise of the powers of the Union, or the exercise of any trust or trusts.

Pouvoirs

7. Outre les pouvoirs généraux que les lois lui accordent, le Syndicat a la faculté

a) d'acheter, de prendre à bail, de louer, d'accepter en échange, d'acquérir par donation, legs, disposition testamentaire ou autrement, et d'avoir en propriété ou en sa possession, de détenir, de contrôler, d'administrer et de mettre en valeur des biens ou des droits mobiliers ou immobiliers ou des titres, successions ou intérêts y afférents, et de les vendre, échanger, aliéner, administrer, mettre en valeur, hypothéquer, donner en nantissement, céder à bail, ou d'autrement en traiter, selon qu'elle le juge opportun pour ses objets;

b) d'emprunter de l'argent à ses fins;

c) de faire, tirer, accepter, endosser, escompter, souscrire et émettre des billets à ordre, des lettres de change et d'autres effets négociables ou transférables;

d) de placer ses fonds non immédiatement requis et d'en user, de la manière déterminée à l'occasion;

e) de prendre, de recevoir, d'accepter ou d'acquérir, sous réserve de toute fiducie particulière, des biens, des droits ou des montants, mobiliers ou immobiliers, ou des titres, successions ou intérêts y afférents, y compris des biens ou des droits assujettis à une charge ou servitude, et de conserver, utiliser, placer ou aliéner ces biens, droits ou montants selon les modalités de la fiducie particulière; et

f) d'accomplir les actes et les choses légitimes qui sont accessoires ou favorables à la réalisation de l'objet du Syndicat et à l'exercice de ses pouvoirs, ou à l'exercice d'une ou de plusieurs fiducies.

Conversion rights

8. Subject to the terms of any trust relating thereto or subject to the express terms of the donor making a donation, the Union may convert any trust property

Droits de conversion

8. Sous réserve des conditions de quelque fiducie y relative ou sous réserve des conditions expresses formulées par le donateur qui fait une donation, le Syndicat

held by the Union and may invest and reinvest the proceeds thereof, and any other trust monies, property and rights:

(*a*) in any bonds or debentures of any municipality in Canada, or any public school corporation or of any other corporation whose securities are guaranteed by the Government of Canada or by any province;

(*b*) in any bonds or debentures of the Government of Canada or of any province; or

(*c*) in any investments in which life insurance companies are authorized from time to time by the Parliament of Canada to invest funds, subject to the limitations on investments in stocks, bonds, debentures and real estate mortgages set out in the *Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act*.

R.S., c. 31; 1956, c. 28; 1957-58, c. 11; 1960-61, c. 13; 1964-65, c. 40

peut transformer les biens compris dans la fiducie et détenus par le Syndicat et peut placer ou placer de nouveau le produit qui en résulte, ainsi que tous autres montants, biens et droits provenant d'une fiducie

a) dans des obligations ou débentures de quelque municipalité au Canada ou de corporation scolaire publique ou de toute autre corporation dont les titres sont garantis par le gouvernement du Canada ou par une province quelconque;

b) dans des obligations ou débentures du gouvernement du Canada ou d'une province quelconque; ou

c) dans des valeurs dans lesquelles les compagnies d'assurance-vie sont autorisées à l'occasion par le Parlement du Canada à placer des fonds, sous réserve des restrictions visant les placements dans des actions, obligations et débentures et dans des hypothèques grevant des biens-fonds que renferme la *Loi sur les compagnies d'assurance canadiennes et britanniques*.

S.R., c. 31; 1956, c. 28; 1957-58, c. 11; 1960-61, c. 13; 1964-65, c. 40

Official languages

9. The official languages of the Union shall be English and French.

9. Les langues officielles du Syndicat sont le français et l'anglais.

Licence in mortmain

10. In regard to any real property which, by reason of its situation or otherwise, is subject to the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada, a licence in mortmain shall not be necessary for the exercise of powers granted by this Act, but otherwise the exercise of the said powers shall, in any province in Canada, be subject to the laws of such province.

10. En ce qui concerne les biens-fonds qui, à cause de leur emplacement ou pour quelque autre motif, sont assujettis à l'autorité législative du Parlement du Canada, une autorisation de mainmorte n'est pas requise pour l'exercice des pouvoirs conférés par la présente loi; mais, par ailleurs, l'exercice desdits pouvoirs est assujetti, dans toute province du Canada, aux lois de cette province.

Autorisation de mainmorte

Jurisdiction

11. The Union may exercise throughout Canada the rights and powers conferred upon it by this Act.

11. Le Syndicat peut, dans toute l'étendue du Canada, exercer les droits et les pouvoirs que lui confère la présente loi.

Juridiction

Coming into force

12. This Act shall come into force on a day to be proclaimed by the Governor in Council.

12. La présente loi entrera en vigueur à une date fixée par proclamation du gouverneur en conseil.

Entrée en vigueur

CANADA

ROBERT ... Greffier

the Parliaments, Custodian of the Original Acts of the Legislatures of the late Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, of the late Province of Canada, and of the Parliament of Canada, certify the subjoined to be a true copy of the original Act passed by the Parliament of Canada in the Session thereof held in the eighteenth and nineteenth *years of Her Majesty's Reign, and assented to in Her Majesty's name by the Governor General, on the* eleventh *day of* June *one thousand nine hundred and* seventy *remaining of record in my office.*

Given under my Hand and Seal at *the City of Ottawa, Canada, on the* twelfth *day of* June *one thousand nine hundred and* seventy

des Parlements et gardien des originaux des Lois des Législatures des ci-devant Provinces du Haut et du Bas-Canada, de la ci-devant Province du Canada et du Parlement du Canada, certifie que le texte ci-joint est une copie conforme de l'original de la loi adoptée par le Parlement du Canada en sa session tenue en les dix-huitième et dix-neuvième *années du règne de Sa Majesté, et sanctionnée au nom de Sa Majesté par Son Excellence le Gouverneur Général, le* onzième *jour de* juin *mil neuf cent* soixante-dix *et fait partie des archives de mon bureau.*

Donné sous mon seing et sceau *en la ville d'Ottawa, Canada, le* douzième *jour de* juin *mil neuf cent* soixante-dix

Clerk of the Parliaments—
Greffier des Parlements.

Statement of Purpose

INTRODUCTION:

This statement of policy endeavours to sketch in broad outline the purposes and goals of this great farmers' organization.

Our movement is based on a foundation of understanding. It is an understanding that highlights the positive concepts and needs that will unite us as farmers; for understanding follows learning, and we are learning that as farmers we hold a common stake in the welfare of one another and our nation. We are learning that the pursuit of only individual self-interest leads inevitably to self-destruction. We are learning that the society in which we live and toil is exploitive in nature and the power of abundance we possess is widely subjected to economic exploitation to our disadvantage.

The common hope and aspiration of us all is that the creative power farmers possess may be a blessing to humanity and not a curse. It is our hope and aspiration that our families may live in dignity and prosperity - that we may, as farmers, live in harmony with one another and that all the world's people may live in peace.

PURPOSE NO. 1:

We must address ourselves to the solving of human problems created in a technological age. Our capacity for food production is functioning at less than maximum, while malnutrition and poverty continue to prevail in large sectors of the Canadian population and in much of the world.

Forecasts indicate a population of six billion by the year 2,000, while millions of the world's people daily live in hunger. We bear the burden of a productive ability in food supply that is an embarrassment to our nation. The moral obligation felt by farm people in developing a distribution system for food that can offset the growing threat of world hunger and poverty must be shared by all Canadians. We must, as a nation, overcome the narrower consideration of world economics and political shortcomings in order that food may be used for the relief of human suffering and establishment of world peace.

PURPOSE NO. 2:

We believe in the maintenance of a strong rural community in Canada as an essential part of our national culture and that farmers must continue to hold a distinct place in the national identity as the basic producers of food. The ability to produce foodstuffs in mass quantity is increasingly resulting in the encroachment into the production area by corporate structures possessing market control. The competitive forces of integrated food production industries can, we believe, in stages destroy the principles of farm production, based on the individual management, ownership and/or control of productive resources by farm people.

The production of food must be considered as serving the national interest of Canada. It is the product of the soil which is a great natural resource. The primary production of food is the largest of our national industries, still within the realm of Canadian economic and political control. We believe it must remain Canadian. It is in the best interests of our nation to maintain a sound rural community on the strength of an efficient and economic farming industry, and broadly based ownership and/or control by farm families of the basic resources for food production.

PURPOSE NO. 3:

We live in an organized society. Organization implies discipline of action among the members of a group in society who share common interests and goals. Such discipline is widely exercised to the disadvantage of farmers in commerce and trade through the existence of a managed market system and administered price structure by the corporate industrial complex, both in terms of the goods and services purchased by farmers and in the sale of farm products. As a result of the total control over the terms and conditions of trade vested in the corporate sector, vast inefficiencies exist within it, including duplication of services, under-utilization of plants and facilities and technical obsolescence, which force upon farmers demands for even greater efficiencies of production and narrowing margins of return.

As individuals, farmers can exert no real influence in the market place. As individuals, farmers often disadvantage and exploit one another.

Farmers must organize and bargain collectively as farmers to bring about the degree of discipline and organization necessary to make them an effective countervailing force in our society.

PURPOSE NO. 4:

No force in our society can match the power possessed collectively by farmers. Food production is an absolute essential. Farmers are entitled to a fair return on their labours and investment. Action follows organization. Farmers must learn to live with one another rather than off one another. Through mutual co-operation and collective action, farmers can exercise the bargaining power that comes with organization.

PURPOSE NO. 5:

Government holds a heavy responsibility toward determining the structure of food production in this nation by the philosophical approach reflected through legislation and public policy. Farmers must exert every legitimate means of assisting our legislators in providing legislation that can assure equity for farmers and the survival of a flourishing rural community in Canada.

The development and promotion of sound farm policies by farmers upon governments is essential to the future welfare of farming.

COMMODITY POLICIES

GRAINS & OILSEEDS

Policy Requirements:

1. Orderly marketing is the cornerstone of NFU policy. It includes these basic concepts:

    a) Control of the product into, through and out of the marketing system to meet immediate market demand.

    b) Single desk selling.

    c) Equality of delivery opportunity between producers.

    d) Pooling of returns and costs among producers.

    e) Elimination of manipulation, speculation and waste.

2. Policies are needed to assure:

    a) An adequate and productive capacity to meet needs at home and abroad.

    b) A price for the product which will return to the producer the cost of production, including a reasonable return on investment, management and labour.

    c) A storage program that provides adequate inventory.

    d) A marketing system that regulates the flow of grain into, through and out of the handling and transportation system to meet market requirements.

    e) A selling system that prevents speculation but returns to the producer an equal price for equal quality.

    f) A delivery system that assures each producer equality of opportunity in the market.

    g) A handling system that ensures sufficient capacity without duplication of facilities within reasonable proximity of the farm gate.

    h) A rail transportation system capable of providing necessary services in moving Canada's grain crop to domestic and export positions at the least possible cost.

    i) A pricing system that does not exploit the producer or consumer in times of large or small inventories.

    j) i) A grading system that identifies and maintains the quality of Canadian grain;

    ii) The Canada Seeds Act should be amended to require a lower tolerance of impurities in graded seed.

    k) A contract system that applies to all grains delivered directly to country and terminal elevators and which will be assigned on percentage call. Inland terminal elevators should not be accorded special allocations. These requirements can only be met by the functioning of a publicly regulated orderly marketing system through sympathetic agencies such as the C.W.B., the Canadian Grain Commission, and the Canadian Transport Commission and backed by federal and provincial governments which support these aims.

    l) That the federal government refrain from participation in grain embargoes or other restrictive measures that will impede the Canadian Wheat Board from selling grain whenever and wherever possible.

    m) That all forage seeds be defined as marketable grain under the Canadian Wheat Board.

    n) That all requests for grain check-offs be rejected unless a transparent and simple refund system exists. [Nov.'00]

    o) Organic grains must remain under exclusive Canadian Wheat Board control. The C.W.B. should study the option of creating designated grades of organic grains.

    p) The marketing of all domestic feed grains should be returned to Canadian Wheat Board control and all commercial outlets should be designated as agents of the Board. We, therefore, oppose the establishment by the Alberta government of a Feed Grains Commodity Exchange.

    q) Manufacturers of commercial feeds should be required to provide farmers with a complete analysis of such feed and guarantee its content by proper documentation, including total digestible nutrients, digestible proteins analysis and chemical additives.

3. NFU policy calls for:

a) The expansion of the Canadian Wheat Board into a Canadian Grains Board with complete jurisdiction over grain products and oilseed marketing into Canada, intra-provincially, inter-provincially and in export, and such Board be placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

b) Provinces to transfer to the Canadian Grains Board needed power to regulate intra-provincial trade in grain. This transfer of powers may be achieved by direct legislative transfer or through the establishment of provincial grain commissions whose function would be to make and enforce regulations to bring all grain marketed intra-provincially under the direction of the Canadian Grains Board.

c) The Canadian Grains Board to become the sole grain merchant, and in the interim the C.W.B. handle sales directly without the use of agents wherever possible.

d) The Canadian Grains Board to market all principal grains and oilseeds produced in Canada. As a positive step in this direction, the NFU calls for an immediate referendum, among permit holders within the C.W.B. jurisdiction. Further, pending the broadening of grain marketing powers, we endorse the promotion of an orderly marketing plan for corn in Ontario.

e) i) The Canadian Grains Board to have management jurisdiction over all the works designated as Works for the General Advantage of Canada that are used to handle, process, store or transport grain.

ii) Such facilities be amalgamated into one publicly-owned system.

f) The Canadian Grains Board to have the power to establish delivery quotas in order to maintain equitable delivery opportunity among producers.

g) The Canadian Grains Board to accept into the elevator system only those kinds and grades of grain required to meet market needs.

h) The Canadian Grains Board to maintain stocks of grain in positions to meet the needs of the domestic market.

i) The Government of Canada to introduce a complete two-price system for all Canadian grain (a domestic price and an export price) to be administered by the Canadian Grains Board.

j) The Government of Canada to implement a price guarantee based on the cost of production for domestically-consumed wheat with the returns to be shares equally per farm on the wheat produced for domestic use divided by the number of permit-book holders with a set cap per farm. [Jan. '95]

k) The domestic price for all grain to be set at the cost of production including a reasonable return to investment, management and labour, with a price relationship of all grains which reflects their relative value in use.

l) The Canadian Grains Board to operate for administrative purposes a two-pool system for each grain (domestic and export).

m) The export price of all grains to be determined by the Canadian Grains Board at such a level as to allow Canadian grain to move into world markets.

n) The federal government to make capital funds available to grain handling facilities for the development of a rational grain handling system and for the development and maintenance of a publicly-owned rational rail network of branch lines and main lines capable of providing adequate service at the lowest cost. Railway companies should also be required to lease or sell abandoned elevator sites to farmers for storage purposes.

o) The federal government should introduce an export grain income stabilization plan based on the maintenance of realized net income. If grain sold into world markets does not cover farmer's cost of production, a deficiency payment should be made to do so.

p) The federal government to implement a grain inventory reserve program of farm-stored grain.

q) Grain handling charges to be established by the Canadian Grain Commission at a uniform rate throughout the country and no changes in the tariff schedule authorized before full public hearings have been held.

r) All dockage to become the property of the Canadian Grains Board.

s) Price spreads between grades of grain not to be discriminatory.

t) The operations of the Canadian Grain Commission to be extended to all of Canada.

u) The farmer's right to producer's car delivery system to be maintained. To stop abuses of this producer car right, all producer cars should be under the quota system and jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board and in the long run, under the Canadian Grains Board. There should be stiffer penalties if the incorrect grade and type of grain is loaded and violators forfeit for one year the right for use of a producer car. The sharing of producer cars should be permitted. All costs associated with producer cars must be charged to the users of the producer cars.

v) The statutory (Crowsnest) freight rates on western grain to be reinstated and maintained in perpetuity and be non-negotiable.

w) The Canadian Grains Board to have complete jurisdiction over the control of grain movement in Canada including the allocation of railcars; and the allocation of railcars to elevators to be based on previous year's average handlings.

x) The Canadian government to work toward international grains agreements through exporter co-operation but under no circumstances agree to negotiate such agreements under the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

y) The federal government not allow any further purchases of existing grain handling facilities or expansion of facilities by foreign-owned grain companies, and those who already have purchased facilities be instructed to divest themselves of current interests.

z) The creation of an independent receiver to operate at all ports to receive and take possession of producer car contents to market and allocate to grain companies to the best advantage of producers. [Nov.‘16]

4. The federal government should increase funding to the Canadian Grain Commission and Commission staffing levels so that the CGC can properly fulfill its job of ensuring that Canada’s reputation as a supplier of quality milling grade grain is maintained into the future. [Nov.’01]

5. The NFU calls upon the Canadian Wheat Board to permanently discontinue the practice of "switching" grain stocks within the country and terminal elevator system.

6. A system of interest-free cash advances for producers on farm-stored grain which allows each producer equity of income opportunity for each crop year based on the allotted Canadian Wheat Board quota for that year must be maintained. Such cash advances should be based on 80% of the projected delivery quota in the crop year. The $50,000 limit on C.W.B. cash advances should be maintained. The NFU will continue to press the federal government to drop the requirement for a priority assignment. [These interest-free cash advances should be maintained until such time as the contracted quotas can be delivered. - Jan. '95]

7. Funds allocated by the federal government to the Farm Cash Advance program have declined significantly since the program was established. This has seriously undercut farmers’ ability to cover production expenses. The NFU calls on the federal government to increase the guarantee on cash advances to 75% of basic price. [Nov.’05]

8. We request that shippers of non-board grains be required to pay a special levy as a contribution toward the cost of hopper cars purchased by the C.W.B.

9. We urge the federal government direct the Canadian Wheat Board to initiate a study on how the C.W.B. would market canola, oats and rye, if the C.W.B. was given that mandate.

10. The federal Minister of Agriculture should undertake a feasibility study on including more grains and oilseeds under the C.W.B. [Jan. '95]

11. We urge the federal government conduct a plebiscite on the matter of placing the marketing of canola and flaxseed under C.W.B. jurisdiction. [The NFU should pressure the federal government via petitions, letters and phone calls to M.P.s and whatever other means necessary to place all grains and oilseeds under the sole jurisdiction of the CWB. - Jan. '95]

12. The federal government should take steps to place organic grains under the C.W.B. [Jan. '95]

13. Federal and provincial governments should educate our media on the benefits of a strong Canadian Wheat Board. [Jan. '95]

14. Because the CWB has incurred, and continues to incur, considerable costs defending itself from false statements made by groups and individuals, the NFU urges the CWB to attempt to recover costs it incurs while defending itself from false statements made by groups or individuals. [Nov. '95]

15. Final grain payments made to producers by the C.W.B. should indicate only the kind and grade of grain and unit price per tonne or bushel when such payments are announced by the Board.

16. The NFU must develop a policy which constitutes the principles of a universal comprehensive grain income protection program with contributions originating from the federal and provincial governments in the four western provinces and all producers within the C.W.B. marketing jurisdiction.

17. Membership in SeCan should not be a condition for purchase of foundation or registered seed.

18. The integrity of pedigreed seed production should not be placed at risk by any reduction in the number of casual field inspections. [Dec.'10]

19. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency intends to change the Crop Variety Registration Legislation to allow increased registrations without improvements over bench-mark varieties. The NFU calls for the retention and strengthening of merit-based criteria for the registration of new crop varieties. [Nov.'00]

20. The Canadian Wheat Board must regain import licensing authority over all grains, oilseeds and products thereof and retain export control over wheat and barley to all destinations including the United States.

21. That as a means toward developing export markets for specialty crops, we call upon the federal government to re-create Canagrex to assist producers and processors in market development.

22. To assure farmers of a fair basic return, the federal government should implement a program which will return $10/bus. for the first 5,000 bushels of wheat marketed and $4.50/bus. for the first 3,000 bushels of barley with prices indexed to inflation.

23. The NFU calls upon the federal government to implement a guaranteed price for domestically-used grain based on a cost of production. This should be calculated as total consumption of grain produced for domestic use divided by the number of grain farmers, to set a limit per farm.

24. The federal government must continue annual payments, after 1988-89 crop year, into the C.W.B. Surplus Account, the equivalent amount lost by wheat producers as a result of termination of the domestic wheat pricing program.

25. The NFU will lobby the federal government to enact legislation that will strengthen and expand the marketing powers of the CWB to include flax, oats, canola, and rye with a majority producer vote. [Nov.'97]

26. A few people are asking for an exemption from normal CWB pooling accounts for new generation co-ops. Such exemptions will result in lower prices for the vast majority of farmers. Because of this, the NFU opposes exemptions for new generation co-ops from the normal CWB pooling accounts. [Nov.'99]

27. Agricore supports the major thrust of the Estey Report; through its membership in the AITG group, it has described the CWB as an export subsidy in its WTO trade position; and Agricore has employed security forces and scab labour to operate some of its elevators in Manitoba. Because these acts are harmful to both farmers and its GSU employees, the NFU will urge its members and other farmers to withdraw their support from Agricore. [Nov.'99]

28. Because the takeover of Agricore by ADM/UGG gives ADM/UGG overwhelming control of country elevators, terminals, and farm supply outlets, the Competition Bureau should reject that takeover. [Nov.'01]

29. The NFU urges the Canadian Wheat Board to invest in the development of varieties of wheat, durum and barley for the purposes of: [Nov.'03]

    a) Maintaining a suitable number of varieties with superior end-use, and agronomic characteristics that are not subject to the control of private companies; [Nov.'03]
    b) Having significant influences in research goals of plant breeders; [Nov.'03]

c) Controlling the costs to farmers for new and better varieties. [Nov.'03]

30. The NFU calls on the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to rescind its resolution calling for a "free market for the sale of wheat and barley." The Chamber of Commerce is interfering in farmers' democratic decision-making process. The NFU further requests that local Chambers of Commerce urge the national Chamber to rescind its resolution. [Nov.'03]

31. The NFU believes the federal government must be responsible for guaranteeing initial payments made by the CWB on wheat, durum and barley. [Nov.'05]

32. Any legislation which aims to remove federal government responsibility for initial payments made to the CWB on wheat, durum and barley must be resisted. [Nov.'06]

33. The National Farmers Union confirms its strong support for single-desk selling for barley under the Canadian Wheat Board. [Nov.'07]

34. The majority of Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) funding is obtained through check-offs on wheat and barley. The NFU advocates that WGRF check-off funds be used solely for development of wheat and barley. [Nov.'08]

35. The prairie wheat and barley commissions should work to strengthen public plant breeding and ensure a farmer's right to save and reuse seed. The commissions should put farmers before the corporate sector. [Nov.'13]

36. All agricultural commodity groups which collect and/or administer check-off funds should hold elections by mail-in ballot. [Nov.'14]

37. The NFU urges legal action, along with our allies, against the federal government to turn the (former) CWB contingency fund back to farmers. [Nov.'11]

38. The federal government should audit the dismantling of the CWB and make public the report. [Nov. '15]

39. The western provincial governments should express their intent to purchase the assets of the CWB with the intent of returning the property to its rightful owners, the wheat and barley farmers of western Canada. [Nov. '14]

40. The NFU promote the establishment, under federal legislation, of a Canadian Grains Board that has similar powers to the former CWB and be democratically controlled by farmer elected directors. [Nov.'15]

41. The federal government to support the development of new varieties of wheat, barley and other grains that are not subject to PBR (Plant Breeders Rights) or other private control mechanisms [Nov. '16]

42. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Ministry responsible should reduce the allowable percentages of weeds allowed in commercial forage seed. [Nov. '16]

43. The NFU will work with and support the farmers of western Canada by calling for the reestablishment of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and single-desk selling of grain in western Canada inclusive of transportation and sales logistics [Nov. '17]

44. The NFU will develop a plan of action to reinstate a CWB 'single desk' marketing system [Nov'17]

45. The NFU will request, in writing, that the auditor general conduct an audit centering on the dissolution of the Canadian Wheat Board and the creation of G3. [Nov. '17]

46. The NFU will organize a high-pressure campaign to demand that single desk selling of wheat and barley be immediately restored in Canada. [Nov. '19]

47. The NFU will work on and collaborate with other organizations to create a standardized grain contract that would apply to grain and oilseeds deliveries. [Nov. '24]

CWB ELECTIONS:

1. Elections Canada should be charged with the responsibility of running future CWB elections. [Dec.'98]

2. All producers delivering CWB grains within the five years preceding any CWB election should automatically get a ballot. New farmers with no history of delivery should get a ballot upon signing a declaration. [Dec. 10]

3. CWB Advisory Committee elections cost farmers approximately $190,000. CWB Directors elections are expected to cost several times as much. Therefore, the NFU calls on the federal government to pay any costs of the election above the $200,000 level.

[Dec.'98]

4. Price equity, as delivered by the CWB, is under attack. For this reason the NFU shall work aggressively to elect CWB Directors that support price pooling and equity amongst farmers. [Nov.'99]

5. Unidentified parties have launched letters, internet, and telephone campaigns to bypass third party spending regulations in the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) elections. Therefore, the NFU demands that the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) launch a complete inquiry into the anonymous campaigns by anti-CWB forces manipulating the CWB Board of Directors elections. The Minister must also ensure that the proper regulations are enforced and establish a mechanism to ensure that unlawful meddling does not happen again in the future. [Nov.'00]

6. The federal government must enact provisions in the CWB Director Elections regulations that specify zero tolerance for candidates who violate the regulations, and furthermore that such violations will result in the disqualification of the candidates. Included in the regulations will be strict spending limits for each candidate and their supporters. It is the responsibility of the Election Coordinator to make these regulations and penalties very clear to all candidates prior to the election. Nov.'03]

7. The potential for conflict of interest involving private firms such as Meyers Norris Penny (MNP) make them inappropriate for conducting Canadian Wheat Board director elections. The Minister Responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board must investigate conflict of interest situations which may arise and take appropriate actions. The CWB must remove MNP as the body conducting these elections, and the Canadian Government must amend the Elections Act to enable Elections Canada to conduct the CWB Director elections.

[Nov.'04]

8. The CWB Election Review Panel appointed in 2005 recommended a number of changes to the CWB election process which are undemocratic, including weighted votes based on production and potential removal of interested parties as voters. The NFU objects to the undemocratic, biased process involved in the review, and rejects the Panel's recommendations.

[Nov.'05]

9. The decision by the federal government to tamper with CWB Director Elections in the fall of 2006 resulted in the disenfranchisement of 36% of eligible voters, and added substantial costs to the electoral bill. The NFU calls on the federal government to reimburse the CWB for these extra costs caused by its election tampering. [Nov.'06]

10. The NFU strongly supports the single-desk selling of wheat and barley through the Canadian Wheat Board. The NFU will work to ensure that any changes to CWB marketing authority are made by farmers through an honest process. [Nov.'08]

CANADIAN GRAIN COMMISSION:

1. a) The C.G.C. not to license any foreign owned, private or cooperative grain companies which will permit them to own or operate grain handling facilities.

   b) The NFU to meet annually with the Canadian Grains Board, the Canadian Grain Commission and the federal government to negotiate all matters related to grain for the ensuing year.

   c) The NFU rejects the concept of large inland grain terminals on the prairies.

   d) Before issuing a license for the construction of new grain handling facilities, the Canadian Grain Commission should be required to hold public meetings in the area affected to determine if the additional capacity is warranted. If sufficient capacity already exists, no license should be issued. In the case of abandonment of existing facilities, the Canadian Grain Commission should also be required to hold public meetings to determine the effect on the community. If the facility proves to be needed, the grain company concerned should be required to maintain that capacity.

   e) The C.G.C. ensure uniformity in cash grain tickets which fully document all handling and freight charges deducted from grain delivery and that the gross amount be based on Thunder Bay or Vancouver price.

   f) The C.G.C. should upgrade standards for domestic feed grain sold into Eastern Canada and B.C. to reduce the infestation of wild oats and other weed varieties in these areas.

g) The C.G.C. should retain its current method of calculation for determining the percentage moisture content of grain.

h) The C.G.C. should ensure all grain dealers are adequately bonded to cover all unsecured creditors, and that they be required to reveal the size of their bond upon demand of a producer.

i) The Canadian Grain Commission is recommending that licenses not be required to provide security. The NFU opposes changes of CGC regulations governing farmer security unless farmer protection is increased by a method acceptable to the majority of farmers. [Dec.'98]

j) The Canadian Grains Commission should provide a quality analysis of all canola and low uricic acid rapeseed imports to determine if they meet Canadian standards.

k) Canary seed should be included by the C.G.C. as a grain under the Canada Grain Act.

l) The federal government should amend the Canada Grain Act to prohibit the growing and selling of unlicensed wheat varieties in Canada. Persons violating Canada's Seed Act by importing unlicensed varieties for purposes other than research should be prosecuted and fined. Crop insurance should never be made available to cover unlicensed varieties.

m) New seed varieties developed through publicly-funded plant breeding programs should be released through SeCan Association as a "general release".

n) The federal government must maintain the "co-op testing" program of newly released and currently licensed seed varieties and continue to publish the comparative yield potential and agronomic characteristics of each variety.

o) That the CGC act in coordination with port receivers to grade and market producer cars. [Nov. '16]

p) The National Farmers Union will push the federal government to mandate that freight and elevation costs be printed on grain cash tickets. [Nov '17]

2. The Canadian Grain Commission has undertaken an internal review with a very short time frame. The grain trade and the federal government are both trying to download costs directly onto farmers. Therefore, the NFU will lobby the federal government to maintain or increase its funding to the Canadian Grain Commission. [Dec.'98]

3. The NFU calls on the Federal Government to properly fund the Canadian Grain Commission, so that farmers' rights under the Canadian Grain Act can be adequately enforced by the CGC. [Nov.'04]

4. The Federal Agriculture Minister must fill vacant CGC Assistant Commissioner positions as soon as possible. [Nov.'99]

5. Kernel Visual Distinguishability (KVD) was discontinued in 2008 by the federal government as a method of variety registration and grading standard for wheat, despite the fact that no reliable or affordable alternative method is available. This move threatens the quality and reliability of the Canadian wheat grading system. The situation has been aggravated by relaxed rules allowing increased imports of high-starch, low-protein wheat. The NFU demands the federal Minister of Agriculture rescind the order to remove KVD from grading and variety registration requirements; and that KVD be reinstated. [Nov.'08]

6. The NFU advocates that the mandate of the Canadian Grain Commission continue to be guided by the principle that the CGC shall act primarily in the interests of grain producers, and that this mandate continue to be incorporated in the Canada Grain Act. [Nov.'08]

7. The NFU will lobby the Canadian Grain Commission to collect and report grain sales price at port, to buyers and to processing locations in Canada to allow farmers accountability in grain pricing. [Nov '17]

8. The NFU vigorously opposes the amalgamation of Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI) and Cereals Canada or any other dilution of CIGI's authority. [Nov. '17]

9. The NFU will urge the Canadian Grain Commission to hold more public meetings with farmers, convened and resourced by Commissioners, in order to raise public awareness about the role of the CGC, its Commissioners, and committees like the "Western Grain Standards Committee."

[Nov. '22]

MARKET ASSURANCE PLAN:

The following principal points represent the basic proposal for a Market Assurance Plan (MAP).

1. As other grains and oilseeds come under Board jurisdiction, they become eligible for the Plan.

2. That the cash advance program be continued.

3. A special page or pages be provided in each delivery permit book to record all transactions relating to MAP.

4. At the conclusion of harvest or before December 1 in each year, a producer who wishes to participate in MAP would declare in the permit book the quantities and estimated grades of each kind of grain to be delivered to the Board during the crop year. NOTE: This would make MAP a voluntary plan.

   If, by the end of a crop year, a producer had been unable to deliver the quantity of grain he/she had committed for delivery, the amount of undelivered grain would become MAP grain.

5. The Board would use a contract system to call grain forward and to share delivery opportunity among producers.

6. Failure to have declared in the permit book (No. 4 above) would disqualify a producer from participation in MAP.

7. Each application would be accompanied by an affidavit signed by the applicant that the stated quantities of grain are stored on the farm.

8. Each application would state:

   a) The kind, amount and estimated grade of each grain being committed to MAP.

   b) Land description where the grain is stored.

   c) Names and addresses of all persons who have an interest in each kind of grain, and the extent of each person's interest.

   d) The person or persons to whom payments are to be made.

   e) The person to whom storage payments are to be made.

   f) A guarantee that the grain will be kept in good condition.

   g) The delivery point to which a producer wishes to deliver the grain.

9. Each application to be signed by all persons who have an interest in the grain.

10. Upon acceptance of the application by the Board, and after deducting any outstanding cash advances from previous years, the country elevator manager would issue to each person whose grain has been accepted by MAP, a cheque as an initial payment for the grain at an amount per tonne equal to the initial payment at July 31 at the producer's delivery point for the crop year just ended.

11. On the first day of November, and on the first day of each succeeding three-month period, the Board would mail to each person to whom storage is to be paid [8(e) above], a cheque for an amount per tonne for storage equal to an amount that would be paid if the grain were stored in a licensed elevator.

12. Each person to whom storage is paid shall be responsible to ensure MAP grain is kept in good condition.

13. Storage payments would cease at the end of the three-month period in which the permit holder is notified to deliver grain to an elevator (or such other person identified by the Board).

14. When MAP grain is needed by the Board, the Board shall notify the permit holder by Registered Mail, and the permit holder shall deliver the grain to an elevator (or such other person identified by the Board).

15. The Board shall make MAP grain available to the local market when arrangements are made with the Board.

16. The Board shall consider MAP grain as a reserve to be called into the system when regular quotas do not bring forward grain needed to meet sales commitments.

17. MAP grain called forward by the Board shall become part of the Pool for the crop year in which the grain is delivered to the Board.

18. All interest and storage costs associated with MAP to be paid by the federal government.

19. All administrative costs associated with MAP to be paid by the Board.

20. Regulations provided for penalties for abuse to be drawn up by the Board.

21. The NFU re-initiate educational meetings at the district and local levels advocating the principles of MAP.

DEFICIENCY PAYMENT POLICY:

1. Canadian grain and oilseeds producers are experiencing severe declines in the value of their marketings which is directly attributable to the destructive international market and price war being waged between the US and the E.C., and

2. This action has seriously eroded the economic stability of thousands of farm families, and threatens the future viability of the agricultural industry in this country.

3. In response to these circumstances, we:

    a) Demand parity pricing be legislated or; [Nov.'11]

    b) Urge the federal government implement a target price-deficiency payment support program to cover the major grains, oilseeds and special crops that can show hurt as a result of the U.S.-E.E.C. price war;

    c) Request that target prices for grains and oilseeds be established at levels to return the cost of production plus a reasonable profit;

    d) Request that the level of deficiency payments paid to producers be determined by the amount of shortfall experienced between market prices and target prices;

    e) Request that the target price program remain in place until such time as normal world trading relations and marketing conditions resume;

    f) Propose that a $50,000 upper limit be placed on the amount of deficiency payments that will be paid to any one producer in each marketing year;

    g) Urge that the marketing of the grains and oilseeds included in this proposal be placed under the marketing jurisdiction of a Canadian Grains Board.

    h) We urge the federal government replace the current NISA programs with this deficiency payment policy. In the interim we demand the federal government must change the NISA program to address the needs of farmers and that full cost of production be incorporated into the NISA triggering formula.

FINE SEEDS POLICY:

1. The NFU shall continue to promote and expand producer participation in the collective bargaining process of marketing fine seed by:

    a) Continuing to press the provincial and federal governments for certified collective bargaining legislation under the terms and conditions of the Agricultural Producers Collective Bargaining and Marketing Act adopted by the NFU.

    b) A continuation of the membership recruitment program in order to meet the conditions of our collective bargaining policy.

    c) Developing a marketing information service on Fine Seeds at the national level, for the benefit of fine seeds producers and their negotiators in all areas of Canada.

    d) That packagers of grass seed be required to identify the contents of their packages showing the percentage of different types of seed.

    e) The NFU shall work towards having the federal and provincial departments of agriculture become sole suppliers of all pedigreed seed stocks, thus eliminating the present practice of contracting these seeds to farmers by seed companies.

LIVESTOCK POLICY:

Interim Livestock Policy [Dec.'96]

1. Because current trade agreements make the implementation of a National Meat Authority (NMA) impossible, the NFU will develop and work to implement an interim livestock policy until those trade agreements are rescinded. [Dec.'96]

   The NFU Board will establish a committee to draft an interim livestock policy to serve until it is possible for Canada to implement the NMA. [Dec.'96]

3. Small slaughterhouses in many provinces have been operating under provincial regulations. These small slaughterhouses are beneficial to the local communities and it is not economically feasible or necessary for them to meet federal regulations. Therefore, the NFU will pressure the federal government to be flexible in its plan to force small slaughterhouses to meet federal regulations. [Dec.'98]

4. The development of large-scale units in livestock production and processing create conditions that have the potential to endanger the environment. Some provinces hold environmental hearings after projects are under construction and some have refused to hold environmental hearings on projects that have the potential to damage the environment. The NFU will work to ensure all private and public projects that have the potential to have a significant impact on the environment will be subject to a federal/provincial impact study. The NFU will also work to ensure that federal/provincial environmental impact studies will be completed before the start of development or construction. [Dec.'98]

5. Meat packing is concentrated in the hands of a small number of large corporations. Such concentration is accompanied by the tendency of packers to "capture" more and more of the livestock supply through contracting. This concentration of ownership results in a lack of price transparency and access to market and leaves small and medium-sized producers as residual suppliers. The NFU will lobby the provincial and federal governments to regulate concentration in the meat packing/processing sector in Canada to allow for the equal treatment of all sellers and equal market access for all sellers of livestock. Further, the NFU demands that all meat packers be subject to mandatory price reporting to ensure price transparency in the livestock sector. [Dec.'98]

6. The Canadian Government should establish a livestock check-off to raise money to construct livestock killing plants to be operated in the best interests of Canadian farmers. The federal and provincial governments should also extend financial support to farmer co-ops and other independent processors in the form of bridge financing or loan guarantees through banks and credit unions, and assist in the feasibility studies and business plans plants within defined catchment areas defined by farmers for start-up meat processing. These plants would utilize existing family owned and operated avatoirs within a best case catchment area. The proposed new meat processing plant studies will look at retrofitting recently closed facilities and new construction to meet federal Hard and Critical Point (HACCP) food plant certification. [Nov.'04]

7. The systematic decline of Canada's independently-owned and operated meat packing capacity since the 1970s is the result of deliberate government policies aimed at encouraging exports of live cattle to the United States. Canada's packing capacity has become consolidated in the hands of a few large American-owned multinational corporations. However, Canadian livestock farmers need a strong, stable domestic market and diverse export markets. Canadian consumers, likewise, are calling for organic, hormone-free meat products, which can only be supplied by independent Canadian-owned packing plants which are predisposed to paying farmers a fair price to maintain their needed supply. The NFU, therefore, supports the establishment of independent, Canadian-owned meat processing facilities across Canada. We also encourage these plants to work together to create a co-operative wholesale and retail "collective marketing" program for the mutual benefit of themselves and their farmer-suppliers. [Nov.'04]

8. Tyson and Cargill, two major US-owned meat-packing companies, refused to comply with numerous requests from government sources to access information. In 2004, following the BSE crisis, the NFU called on the House of Commons Agriculture Committee to subpoena senior representatives from these companies to testify under oath before the Agriculture Committee and allow a public audit of their company books. In subsequent years, cattle prices for family farmers declined even further. The NFU now reiterates call for the Agriculture Committee to audit the packers' books and conduct an immediate inquiry into the cause and impact of the financial crisis facing Canada's livestock farmers. In addition, the

Commons Agriculture Committee must provide primary producers with ample opportunity to participate in this inquiry by holding meetings in rural communities in each province. [Nov.'04] [Nov.'07]

9. Farmers who raise cattle face massive losses caused by a number of factors, including: [Nov.'08]

- the rising market power of packers;
- a lack of competition;
- a market structure that is unfair, opaque, manipulated, and that facilitates the price-depressing strategies of the most powerful players; and;
- government policies that advantage packers and large feedlots over independent cow-calf producers. [Nov.'08]

The NFU calls on federal and provincial governments to: [Nov.'08]

a) Outlaw captive supply—packer (or affiliate) ownership or control of feeder cattle and packer control of cattle through forward contracts that do not specify fixed prices (a 7 days prior to slaughter exemption could apply); [Nov.'08]

b) Block any future mergers and takeovers in the beef packing sector that involve the four largest players; [Nov.'08]

c) Amend the Competition Act to restrict any one company from owning more than 20% of the capacity in any food processing sector; [Nov.'08]

d). Require Canada's dominant meat processors and food retailers to open their books annually to a panel of independent accountants and economists who would report on the magnitude of packer and retailer profits in the beef sector; [Nov.'08]

e) Conduct an inquiry into the operations of the Atlantic Beef Products plan. [Dec. '10]

f) Measure and report cattle farmers' cost of production; the relative proportion of the profits within the sector that accrue to farmers, packers, and retailers; and the allocation of taxpayer-funded payments to the various parts of the sector; [Nov.'08]

g) The federal government should extend the Advance Payment loans for livestock until such time as farmers have received their cost of production out of the marketplace for 10 consecutive years. [Nov.'11]

h) Target farm support programs to independent producers, ensure those payments are large enough to ensure financial sustainability, cap payments at $400,000 per year per operation, and cease to give taxpayer money to packers or their affiliates; [Nov.'08]

i) Encourage the industry to move to 100% BSE testing and to minimize non-therapeutic hormone use, in that way maximizing Canada's beef marketing options outside of the U.S. [Nov.'08]

j) Revise government policies so that the goal is maximum sustainable profits for family farmers, and not solely production and export maximization; and [Nov.'08]

k) Restructure check-off funded cattle producer representative organizations so that a cow-calf producer's money goes to his or her choice of organizations that represent cow-calf producers, most importantly the NFU, and so that large feedlots and packers can fund their own lobby groups. [Nov.'08]

l) Demand that governments work with farmers to create collective marketing agencies to offset the power imbalance between farmers and packers. [Nov. '09]

m) Abandon mandatory birth registry so that farm expenses are reduced and packers have less ability to manipulate prices due to foreknowledge of stock numbers, and cattle producers cannot be financially liable if contamination occurs after live sales. [Dec.'10]

n) All levels of government should cost-share perimeter fence on land suitable for livestock in order to help farmers respond more quickly to changing market demand. [Nov.'15]

o) The NFU will urge Canadian Food Inspection Agency to make the meaning of labels on imported beef products accurate as to product origin. [Nov. '18]

p) The NFU will build an interprovincial coalition of farmers and farm advocacy organizations to develop and advocate for recommendations that can be implemented within the supply management system to promote a path to growth for differentiated poultry and egg production. [Nov. '24]

At the 28th Annual Convention held in Saskatoon, November 27-30, 1997, delegates voted to table the entire livestock policy (with the following exceptions: Interim Livestock Policy and Egg Policy). The Convention further resolved to develop an interim livestock policy and, in so doing, examine:

- price transparency;
- market access;
- equal treatment of all sellers;
- economic, social, and environmental sustainability of livestock production;
- existing legislation tools for attaining these goals.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PASSED AT THE 30TH ANNUAL CONVENTION:

WHEREAS a resolution from the NFU Convention in November 1997 called on the NFU to develop an interim livestock policy; and

WHEREAS a national livestock committee developed a draft action plan for an interim livestock policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following basic concepts be included in the interim livestock policy:

<u>Principles of a Basic Livestock Policy</u>

- Single-desk selling be the cornerstone principle

- Full and open price transparency
  - Guarantee that all packer-owned livestock is sold by public auction;
  - That all contract details be made public and contain price, premiums paid, delivery conditions, parties and volume;
  - That mandatory price reporting require all packers to detail actual price paid.

- Equal treatment of all sellers, both contract and non-contract producer

- Economic, social and environmental sustainability of livestock production:
  - Non-farmer investment
  - Manure Handling
  - Environmental Farm Plan

The following sections were lifted from the table and carried at the Livestock plenary meeting:

j) Farm products marketing agencies should develop and adopt new marketing procedures. The objective should be to negotiate long-term agreements with buyers, domestic and into export, with volumes and price determined on a forward basis with escalator clauses geared to inflationary factors in the economy of the country.

k) Legislation should be introduced to exclude chain stores, packing plants, feed companies and other agribusiness firms from commercial livestock production and feeding enterprises.

l) Super farms, and the encouragement of their development and promotion as a matter of deliberate policy, should be studied to determine the effects of such farms in relation to family farm production and rural communities and their effect upon the environment.

m) Grading systems should be improved to more truly reflect the quality indexing of animals rather than gender. Because of the price disparity that often occurs between steer and heifer beef, an indexing system to grade beef is required similar to that employed in the hog industry.

10. a) All grading of meat should continue to be performed by federally-funded government inspectors.

b) Grading of red meats must be based on principles of equality, fairness and consistency, to ensure producers receive maximum benefits. [Nov.'03]

c) The federal government must insist that the highest inspection standards apply in harmonizing our grading standards with those of the U.S. We must work with meat packers to petition the federal government to require all fresh beef imports to be graded according to Canadian grade standards.

11. If natural colour does not affect quality and palatability of meat, the grading system be reviewed to not discriminate against natural colour.

12. It is widely believed by scientists that the various strains of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), otherwise known as Mad Cow Disease, are transmitted through the feeding of animal by-products to animals. The NFU strongly urges the Government of Canada to set legislation aimed at removing all animal by-products from all animal feeds for all animals destined for human consumption. [Nov.'03]

13. The dominant scientific theory of prions as the cause of BSE is based on British models. The Canadian Government dealt with the BSE situation in Canada according to British protocol.

    Because the actual cause of BSE has not been proven, however, there are alternative theories that scientists should be examining. The NFU urges the Canadian Government to do research on BSE along the lines of Mark Purdey's work, which suggests environmental factors play a causative role. [Nov.'03]

14. Strict regulations should be enforced to control the use of chemicals and feed additives in livestock feeding. Prior to licensing the sale and use of any drug or chemical for feeding purposes, the Health Protection Branch must ascertain, by adequate research, that the said drug or chemical will not be harmful to the health of consumers and animals. Any drug or chemical company offering for sale a product that proves harmful to health should be subject to severe penalties. Imports of slaughter animals or meat from countries allowing the use of drugs and chemicals banned in Canada should be prohibited. Drugs should be clearly labelled as to length of withdrawal time.

15. a) All commercial feed concentrates, feed additives and drugs for veterinary use should come under strict regulation as to quality and price and be clearly labelled to indicate analysis of digestible nutrients and amino acids. Coccidiostats in poultry feed should be banned and only available as a vaccine. Ractopamine should be prohibited. [Nov.'11] [Nov.'13]

    b) The federal government should ban the use of all growth hormones in the production of animals used for human consumption and should ban the importation of any food products produced with the assistance of similar growth hormones.

    c) The federal government should use its powers to reduce, and eventually eliminate the use of antibiotics in livestock as a sub-therapeutic growth stimulant. [Nov.'01]

16. Because the meat-packing industry in Canada is concentrated in the hands of a small number of companies, it is in family farmers' interests to produce "natural" pork and beef—that is, meat which is produced using straw bedding, and without genetically-modified feeds, medicated feeds, growth hormones or protein derived from animal and poultry byproducts. The federal government must introduce programs which facilitate production of "natural" pork and beef by family farmers. [Nov.'06]

17. The federal government should investigate the Health of Animals Act and its application, including:

    a) Adequate compensation for loss for all breeds and types relative to the market and costs resulting from a quarantine period.

    b) Adequacy of system of sanitation for all people and equipment entering livestock premises containing quarantined animals.

    c) Copies of all lab reports on tested cattle shall go to the herd owner.

    d) Where required, herds should be tested in an orderly manner by townships.

    e) A more accurate and specific test for brucellosis be developed as soon as possible.

    f) When a large percentage of a farmer's herd reacts positive to testing, compensation should be provided for the slaughter of the entire herd.

    g) When a herd is quarantined, there must be a provision for compensation of neighbouring farmers whose herds are negatively affected. [Jan.'95]

18. a) Consumer education programs should be conducted.

    b) The federal Department of Agriculture must remain solely responsible for the collection and dissemination of all red meat market information.

19. Insurance companies, issuing livestock floater and/or named peril policies should be

compelled to make extensive changes in the wording of such policies in such a way that only one interpretation is evident in regard to losses from such perils, and that these policies state exactly in layman's language what coverage each policy includes and under what conditions losses are deemed payable.

20. a) A Beef Import Law is required that would automatically halt imports when quota levels are attained.

    b) The Federal Government must negotiate a provision with the U.S. Trade Representative which will eliminate retroactive application of countervailing levies on meat and meat products when, in the opinion of U.S. officials, they believe they have a case for applying such levies against Canadian pork exports.

21. Price stabilization programs for products sold in export market should be negotiated between federal and provincial governments and the NFU for all livestock and livestock products, including poultry and eggs, indexed to cover production costs which includes a return to labour and investment.

22. The federal and provincial governments must implement an effective cap on compensation to hog operations affected by tariffs imposed by the United States. The NFU also demands that Canada's farm production policy reflect Canadians' domestic food and trade needs, rather than those of multinational corporations. Canada must also reduce its dependence on a single export market. [Nov.'04]

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE):

23. The dramatic decline in cattle prices following the discovery of a single case of BSE in May, 2003 has resulted in hardship for thousands of cattle producers in Canada. The NFU demands the Canadian Government implement a program to: [Nov.'03]

    a) Support slaughter beef and dairy cows at 100% of pre-BSE prices. [Nov.'03]
    b) Reinstate a plan to support slaughter cattle prices at 100% of pre-BSE levels. [Nov.'03]

    c) Similarly support farmers who sell bison, sheep or other livestock; and [Nov.'03]

    d) Cap and target all payments. [Nov.'03]

24. Due to the BSE crisis, many farm families have been forced to hold onto cull animals or to sell these cull animals at a significant loss. The increase in breeding stock has also aggravated the market glut and contributed to erosion in prices. The NFU urges the Government of Canada and the provinces to enact compensation programs designed to encourage the slaughter and consumption of cull animals and calves. [Nov.'03]

25. The surplus of cull cows in Canada resulting from the BSE crisis continues to exert downward pressure on cull cow prices. Canadian beef and dairy producers desperately need a fair price for these cattle. The NFU calls on the federal government to set a floor price for all cattle over 30 months of age, and that governments invest in farmer-owned, co-operative kill plants to process cull cows. [Nov.'05]

26. In the wake of the worst effects of the BSE crisis, the US continues to maintain a closed border for all live breeding stock using the false excuse of health precautions. However, this political ploy, which costs Canadian farmers millions of dollars in lost revenue annually, must be reversed. The NFU urges the federal government to work for the opening of the border to all livestock. [Nov.'06]

27. The NFU requests the CFIA and Health Canada confirm that the disease-causing agent for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) has not been conclusively identified, and that the infectivity of imported and domestic food products remains unknown. A significant body of evidence casts doubt on the theory of prions as the source of infectivity of TSEs. This evidence points to a biological component of healthy birds and mammals specifically described as a "cell-surface-cupro-glyco-protein" as the identifying marker of the disease. These markers are expressed throughout the body in neural and extra-neural cells. [Nov.'04]

28. The Canadian Government must immediately implement a BSE compensation program for sheep, goats and other ruminants which were excluded from previous compensation measures. [Nov.'04]

29. The cost of removal and disposal of Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) should be borne fully by

the federal government. [Nov.'07]

30. Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) are viewed to contribute to BSE in cattle. The NFU supports the continuing ban of SRMs from livestock feeds. [Nov.'08]

31. The federal government should re-examine and justify existing Specified Risk Material (SRM) regulations. [Nov.'12]

32. Severe Economic Hardship Loans should not be due until the BSE class action suit against the federal government is settled. [Nov.'12]

33. Principles of a Veticare Program:

    a) Veterinary services should be provided to all producers at a reasonable cost based on a uniform fee.

    b) i) The program should encourage preventive health care programs.
    ii) Multi-vet practices should be encouraged
    iii) The program would operate a central drug purchasing plan.
    iv) Adequate veterinary training be provided to supply community needs.

    c) The program should be compulsory with costs shared by producers, local governments (municipal, county), provincial and federal government treasuries.

        i) Single animal services should be attended to at a clinic whenever possible.
        ii) Veterinarians and/or their clinics should be within no more than one hour's travelling distance (80 kilometers).

    d) Veterinary services should be used by producers as one of the tools to improve management and production.

34. Further federal and provincial research is needed into the use of more pasture and forage crops and less grain in the production of beef cattle.

35. The NFU supports the Atlantic Tender Beef Classic branded beef program and Coop Atlantic's efforts to build a beef processing plant in Atlantic Canada. [Nov.'02]

36. The NFU shall lobby appropriate government organizations to support small local abattoirs to help family farms provide products to consumers who want locally-grown and processed meats and poultry and value-added products. [Nov.'02]

37. The NFU will promote a national Red Seal program in butchery and advocate to the relevant authorities, for the establishment of more local abattoirs and improved butchery training, including culturally-specific training programs. [Nov.'23]

38. Research is required to develop a low-cost animal identification system that will be reliable and effective in identifying individual animals from calf to slaughter. Farm Premise Identification and Animal Movement Recording should not be part of this system. [Nov.'11]

39. The NFU vigorously opposes the organization of vertically integrated corporations intended for hog [and other livestock – Jan.'95] production.

40. The Ministry of Agriculture, the federal minister and the federal government address the concerns of pseudorabies and immediately implement a plan to protect the Canadian producers at risk due to lack of protection offered in the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement. [Jan.'95]

41. The federal government should maintain a strict pseudorabies quarantine on U.S. live hog imports. [Dec.'96]

42. The NFU shall open dialogue with animal welfare groups and the Canadian Association of Consumers to discuss issues of mutual concern related to animal husbandry with a view towards better acquainting such groups with the views and concerns of farm people.

43. Models which limit the reach of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) with regard to farm livestock and entering farm premises, such as that in Saskatchewan, should be explored and encouraged. [Nov.'15]

44. Sow stalls should be banned. [Nov.'11]

45. The NFU demands a moratorium on the construction of any new Intensive Livestock Operations. During that moratorium, the government shall fund a "people's inquiry" into the environmental, social, and economic impacts of ILOs. If ILOs are allowed to proceed, each operation in excess of 300 animal units must be subject to an independent environmental impact assessment before any

construction begins. [Nov.'00]

46. Federal and provincial governments should legislate integrator liability bills for amendments to existing Acts) assigning a portion of liability for livestock manure pollution to meat packing companies that own or control the animals. [Nov.'01]

47. Provincial land assessment agencies should lower assessments based on proximity to intensive livestock operations—including both barn sites and manure spreading locations. [Nov.'01]

48. The Alberta government has taken, from local government, control over siting and approval of Intensive Livestock Operations (ILOs). The Manitoba government is moving likewise. The NFU supports the principle that local governments must have the final decision-making authority over the approval of ILOs. [Nov.'01]

49. Corporations and investors are extending their ownership of livestock production by building and operating intensive livestock production facilities. These corporations and investors claim that their intensive livestock production facilities are farm operations. This enables them to avoid many features of provincial labour regulations. Thus, provincial governments should extend the full benefit and protection of provincial labour law and regulation concerning workplace health and safety, standard hours of overtime, statutory holiday pay, and workman's compensation coverage to all workers employed in intensive livestock production facilities. [Nov.'01]

50. The NFU demands the federal and provincial governments take all measures to contain the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease and undertake research to eliminate it. [Nov. '19]

51. The NFU cautions the uncritical acceptance of claims made about the carbon footprint of beef production (which fails to distinguish between intensive industrial beef production and family farm and small scale holders beef production) and major food corporations that use this to heavily promote beef substitution and urge the scientific evaluation of beef production systems including the use of land not so suitable for grain. [Nov. '19]

52. The NFU will call on governments to upgrade regulatory standards to facilitate the successful implementation of mobile abattoirs for commercial-oriented slaughter in under-served regions. [Nov. '21]

The remainder of the livestock policy (with the exception of the Egg Policy at the end) is tabled policy. [Nov.'97]

1. The NFU will continue to promote the establishment of a National Meat Authority for the marketing of livestock and livestock products, with authority to manage supplies and regulate imports.

2. Provincial governments should delegate the necessary marketing power that is now vested in the provinces to a National Meat Authority which would have powers at its disposal to give farmers a return of full cost of production including a reasonable return for labour.

3. The NFU should negotiate with each province the role of provincial marketing commissions and delegation of the necessary powers to the national agency in order to implement effective marketing procedures.

4. Because the jurisdiction over intra-provincial trade is vested in the provinces, where agreement cannot be reached to delegate the provincial powers to establish a national authority for the marketing of a particular commodity, provincial marketing commissions will need to be established. Where two or more provinces can agree, an interprovincial joint authority would be desirable.

5. This step should be considered only as an interim measure leading up to formation of a national agency, and transfer power to it. Provincial commissions may then be phased out, or in some instances retained to perform a regulatory function.

6. After the implementation of a National Meat Authority, the method of selling livestock for slaughter should be on a negotiated basis by a single-desk selling agency.

7. In supply management situations, under no circumstances should quotas be marketable or negotiable between producers. All production quotas should revert to the market agency for reallocation when no longer required by a producer. Priorities should be given to small and new producers, provided the new producers do not fall into the agribusiness category.

8. Quotas now held by agribusiness and other commercial corporate entities should be frozen.

9. a) The NFU recommends that the Government of Manitoba rescind legislated changes to the marketing power of Manitoba Pork. [Nov.'95]

   b) The NFU recommends to the government of Manitoba that any changes to the marketing power of Manitoba Pork will be initiated by hog producers. [Nov.'95]

10. Imported meats should carry labels specifically identifying country of origin, contents and additives [including growth hormones – Jan.'95].

11. Provincial carcass inspection of livestock sold for human consumption should be harmonized as part of a national policy.

12. Retail meat sold to consumers should be specifically identified as to grade, quality, and country of origin. Processed meats should carry labels identifying contents, additives, [including growth hormones – Jan.'95], and country of origin.

13. Artificial insemination centres should be brought under strict public control and regulation. Unlicensed technicians should be restricted to servicing their own herds.
14. Regional livestock committees should be established to promote a National Meat Authority and to research and publicize the ongoing situation in the livestock industry.

15. We strongly protest against current levels of off-shore beef imports and we strongly support a tariff on imported beef equal to the level of subsidy established by the exporting country.

16. Commercial corporate enterprises, non-Canadians who have not applied for landed immigrant status, and research projects should not receive farm production grants, subsidies, or be allowed to participate in price stabilization programs.

17. The NFU should negotiate with the federal government to stabilize the wool price at cost of production calculated annually at the farm gate for the first 2000 pounds of wool produced by a Canadian sheep producer.

18. The NFU will actively encourage governments to direct funds to support the processing of wool locally and domestically. [Nov.'23]

19. Cows should be accorded priority over steers in the use of federal and provincial grazing land.

20. The federal government should maintain the Lacombe breed of hogs in the Show Case Herd in Ottawa.

Principal Considerations for a National Meat Authority

Introduction:

The National Farmers Union has a long standing policy of orderly marketing for farm products. It is the keystone to an overall policy that advocates the farm family remain as the basic unit of food production and retain the ownership and control of land used for production.

The free market system has been identified as a major cause of instability to the farm family concept, as farmers must compete against each other to market their products among relatively few buyers. As a consequence, farmers are cast in the role of "price-takers."

The result of this method of selling is that farmers compete against each other for market shares, rather than buyers competing against each other for the farmers' products. The inevitable effect is that "competition destroys profits." With the added inability on the part of farmers to recover production costs in the prices they receive, the number of farmers remaining in farming continues to dwindle.

None of the foregoing observations are new. It has always been this way for farmers. From time to time, attempts have been made through organized effort to "change the system." The organization of co-operatives and some marketing boards serve as examples. But only a very few have resulted in attaining price and income stability for farmers. Most have continued to rely on an imperfect market system as the price discovery mechanism.

At a meeting of the NFU Executive held on July 31, 1981, a decision was made to once again step up the campaign for change, particularly as it applies to the marketing of red meats. A committee of three was established to consider concepts for a National Meat Authority.

The initial efforts of the Committee follow.

Objectives:

The objectives for a National Meat Authority are to

balance the production, consumption and trade in beef, pork, sheep and lamb, turkeys, broilers and eggs produced in Canada with a view toward:

a) Attaining full self-sufficiency of the regulated products;

b) Developing sufficient export markets to achieve, as a minimum goal, balanced trade in volume for each commodity;

c) Encouraging the production of the regulated products on as broad a basis as possible, consistent for the retention of family farms as the basic production unit;

d) Providing consumers with adequate and high quality supplies of the regulated products at stable prices;

e) Returning to producers prices for their products which will reflect their costs of production and a reasonable return on investment, management and labour.

The foremost requirement in attaining a National Meat Authority is the need for an enlightened public policy at both the federal and provincial levels of government, as well as an enlightened farm community, prepared to recognize that the above objectives are unattainable without considerable intervention and regulation of the present free market system for farm products.

Without the element of some public planning, the instability evident in our red meat industry would more severely have destabilized the currently regulated turkey and egg industries. Only through the encompassing of public planning into all sectors of secondary livestock production can the exploitation of basic food producers be ended.

Through the designing of "value" for livestock products which takes into account considerations based on nutrition as well as the development of balanced domestic cost-price relationships between various products, consumption patterns can develop which all contribute toward stable and predictable production patterns, thereby resulting in a healthy and stable growth in the industry. The thought associated with this statement is the belief that if the prices of the various products have an established relationship to one another, consumers will develop consumption patterns based on preference rather than on price which will enable more accurate forecasting of future supply needs. Producers of differing products will be able to live "with" one another rather than "off" one another, since there would be no further need to attempt to gain greater market shares, for pork, for instance, through convincing consumers to eat less beef.

Requirements:

Legislative powers of sufficient scope to achieve these stated objectives are required. These would include, at the federal level, similar authority given the Canadian Wheat Board by the Parliament of Canada as is possible under the Canada Act, including the following:

1. Regulation of trade and commerce (including sole power over imports and exports through licensing or by direct involvement).

2. Authority to bring local works and undertakings (in this case livestock yards, processing plants, abattoirs, etc.) under federal jurisdiction by declaring them to be "…works for the general advantage of Canada."

3. Control over transportation such as trucks and railways operating in or connecting two or more provinces.

Through a federally-appointed Authority fully representative of all product sectors and in addition to the above powers, the federal jurisdiction would need to be fully exercised in:

4. The grading of livestock and poultry and livestock and poultry products (including the grading of beef on a carcass basis).

5. Establishment of basic prices and price spreads between grades for each of the regulated products.

6. Establishment of provincial market shares based on historic production patterns adjusted to current demand and forecasts and in co-operation with the provinces. Provinces would be required to delegate market powers to the federal jurisdiction.

7. Registration of all producers for establishment of individual market shares of the regulated products. The NMA shall declare eligibility for exemption of producers.

8. Development of average cost-of-production formulas for each of the regulated products and between geographical regions.

9. The full farm cost-of-production formula prices for each product shall be the entry price into the domestic marketplace and price margins there-after shall be regulated up to retail level. Losses on export sales would be compensated to the NMA from the Agriculture Stabilization Fund.

10. An important need in the development of product formula prices is the presence of stable feed grain supplies and prices. The marketing and pricing of all domestic commercial feed grain sales in Canada should be placed under the jurisdiction and control of a Canadian Grains Board.

11. One-desk selling for all livestock and livestock products is needed. Since one of the objectives of a NMA would be to harmonize price and consumption relationships between the various commodities, competitive bidding would distort this objective. Therefore, the function of single-desk selling might take on the task of allocation of available supplies between the various interest groups rather than direct negotiation, since prices would be set periodically by formula adjustments.

12. Cost-of-production operations would be met by the assessment of levies against the regulated products.

13. All buyers of the regulated products, whether for domestic trade or for export, who as agents of processors, wholesalers, distributors, retail chains, are authorized to deal directly with the NMA on behalf of themselves or a third party, would be licensed and bonded.

14. The NMA shall have powers over all exports and imports directly or by licensing of regulated products and retain control over interprovincial and intraprovincial movement.

15. The NMA shall establish in each geographic region and/or province, an administrative structure to regulate and monitor the trade in each of the regulated products.

16. The NMA would be vested with full regulatory powers to impose penalties over all violations related to the buying, selling, processing, transportation and distribution of regulated products.

17. The NMA shall have the power to impose penalties on over-quota production by producers.

18. All individual market share quotas shall be deemed to remain the property of the NMA and revert to the NMA's control and disposition, through its provincial administrations, in the event of a producer retiring from production for any reason. Producers would have the right to transfer quota to their immediate family.

19. The NMA shall have the power to remove surplus production from the market and dispose of it in the most advantageous manner through forward contracting into export, retaining for future need, sale to governments for foreign aid, or domestic welfare programs.

20. The NMA shall designate terminal centres for assembly and distribution of the regulated products.

21. The NMA shall report annually to Parliament to review market experience and assess future production targets for all regulated products. The NMA shall allocate production increases to provincial jurisdictions and through its provincial administrations to individual producers on a priority basis.

22. The NMA shall undertake research into market potential for all regulated products both domestically and into export.

23. The NMA shall report periodically to producers through public information meetings, newsletters, etc.

24. Develop all such production, marketing and pricing regulations as may be necessary and specific to each of the regulated products within its jurisdiction.

<u>Priorities</u>:

While we visualize the ultimate realization of a National Meat Authority fully embracing beef, pork, sheep and lamb, turkeys, chickens and eggs, it is accepted that such an all-embracing agency would be the result of longer-term evolution in its attainment.

Priorities have been considered for a sequence of events in the development of a National Meat Authority to occur in the order that follows:

1. The first step is the obvious need to acquire enabling legislation at the federal level. This would require acceptance by and commitment from the federal government to the philosophy and principles of a NMA concept.

2. Concurrent with Number 1 above, is the need to develop a plan for red meat. It is recognized that the marketing plans for each commodity would vary in detail and thus a plan would need to be developed for each.

3. Lower priority has been given to the inclusion of

turkeys, chicken and eggs into the NMA since orderly marketing systems of varying degree are now functional for these products under the umbrella of the National Farm Products Marketing Act. However, once success is achieved in marketing red meats, negotiations could follow with government for the phasing in and transfer of regulatory powers from the N.F.P.M. Council and the respective provincial governments to the NMA for the marketing of chickens, turkeys and eggs.

Concepts for a Beef Marketing Plan

Introduction:

The "boom and bust" cycles that have characterized the beef industry over the years have resulted in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars to beef producers. Further compounding the problems of balancing supply with consumption has been the erratic price behavior of the marketplace and the escalating increases in production costs.

Farms and ranches throughout Canada which maintain basic breeding herds are the primary sources of beef cattle eventually finished for the Canadian slaughter market. The average size of beef cow herds in Canada in 1986 was 32.4 cows according to Statistics Canada. Many of the calves produced in these operations are surplus to the finishing capacity of the farm units concerned and are eventually offered for sale to other farmers or commercial feedlots for finishing to slaughter weights.

When market prices for slaughter cattle are below costs of production, market prices for feeder cattle often fall sharply, either through lack of demand or because secondary feedlot operations seek to retrench their viability by reducing the input cost of feeder cattle – or both.

The Senate Study on Alternative Marketing and Stabilization further estimated that in Alberta 70% of fed cattle are finished in commercial feedlots and 60% are so finished in Ontario, with the balance finished on farm feedlot operations. This indicates the large degree of dependence cow-calf producers have for their income needs on a stable market for feeder cattle. It also implies that if Canada is to have a stable beef industry in future, the income needs of cow-calf operators are of primary importance and must be accommodated in any beef marketing plan based on the concept and principles of supply management concept.

Basic Considerations:

1. In order to be effective, a beef marketing plan must be national in scope and its support provisions must be uniform and universal.

2. A national marketing agency must have all the authority provided through one-desk selling that would enable it in general terms, to:

    a) Represent all producers in the sale of the product to processors, wholesalers, distributors, etc.;

    b) Regulate imports and exports;

    c) Control the assembly and distribution of the product;

    d) Develop production targets and controls over supply and allocate same on a proportionate basis by province and to producers.

    e) Exercise such other powers as are needed to effect overall stability to the production, marketing and pricing of the regulated product.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the task of any national beef marketing agency would be considerably assisted through the parallel presence of an orderly pricing and marketing system for feed grains in order that the price instability of this important cost item might become more predictable and less disruptive in its effect to the pricing of feeder cattle.

Alternative Considerations:

In considering a national marketing plan for beef, some basic alternatives include:

1. A marketing plan with a basic cost-of-production formula for slaughter cattle.

    a) Producers are paid through stabilization or insurance funds, the difference between market prices and the formula price, thereby allowing marketing forces to function unimpeded.

    b) The formula price of the plan becomes the market floor price for slaughter cattle. Buyers compete for supply on the basis of price competition above the floor price. Such a plan would not require a stabilization program. Price stability resulting from such a program would presumably be reflected in parallel stability for feeder cattle.

2. A marketing plan for feeder cattle which features a basic cost-of-production formula.

    a) Feeder cattle surplus to the needs of producers are sold to potential buyers. Shortfalls in selling prices are compensated through stabilization or insurance payments.

    b) Feeder cattle surplus to the needs of producers are offered for sale at basic prices related to a cost-of-production formula for top grade feeder animals. Price spreads for other grades would be set and weight price differentials established. Such a plan would require a two-tier cost-of-production formula for feeder cattle with that of slaughter cattle. Slaughter cattle would enter the processing system at the cost-of-production price.

Of these four alternatives approach, the combined feeder-slaughter program described in 2(b) would be the most satisfactory.

Principal Considerations for a Feeder-Slaughter Cattle Marketing Program:

1. Basic legislation establishing a National Meat Authority with necessary federal powers and delegation of appropriate provincial powers is a prerequisite.

2. A federal government would appoint a chairman and commissioners (from 5 to 10 in number, depending on whether each geographic region or each province is to be represented on the NMA).

3. A research department would be established within the NMA to develop parallel cost-of-production formulas for feeder cattle and slaughter cattle and determine such other basic information as would be required by the NMA.

4. A policy objective of the NMA should be the minimum achievement of self-sufficiency for domestic beef requirements and the development of stable export markets as well as maximizing returns for the product to producers and stabilizing price and supply to consumers.

METHODS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Initially, all owners of beef cow herds or owners of dairy herds who cross-breed dairy cows with beef cattle for the purpose of producing feeders to finish, custom feeding or for sale, would register with the NMA. In this way, the basic and average size of the beef breeding herd and the total number of producers can be established. Additionally, the annual sale of dairy and beef culls would be estimated as well as animals bred for export.

2. Tabulation on the size of beef breeding herds and the number of producers would assist in determining the initial market share quota for each producer and each province. A further extension of this tabulation would include information on each active producer's beef production record in the previous five years to develop an historic pattern of beef production. In addition, his/her capability for and interest in expanding beef production in future for finishing, custom feeding and sale of feeder stock should be obtained. This would provide some indication on potential size and volume capability for beef production.

3. Parallel to registration of producers would be the registration of farmers and commercial feedlot operations who purchase and feed cattle from feeder weight to finish. The numbers currently being fed, past five-year feeding record and potential feeding capacity, would be determined in order to develop an allocation system for commercial feeder cattle. Custom feedlot operations would also register and report their historic record of feeding, current levels of feeding and existing capacity for feeding. This information would assist in narrowing down the number of commercial feeder cattle available for allocation and/or export.

4. A cost-of-production formula price for feeder cattle of top grade in the 400 lb. weight class would be the entry price into the market and constitute the NMA benchmark for prices for other grades and weights of feeder cattle offered for sale. These price ranges may be regulated and applied on a sliding scale (ie. $ per cwt. would decline as weight of feeder cattle increases). This procedure indicates the need for establishment of grading standards for feeder cattle.

5. The NMA, through its designated agents, would be the sole seller of all feeder cattle offered on the commercial market. It would receive orders for purchase from buyers, develop export markets and administer the assembly, allocation and disposition of all stock. Farm-to-

farm sales could be accommodated.

6. The cost of administration in its marketing program would be assessed against the feeder cattle sold, but this cost would be included in the cost-of-production formula.

7. The cost-of-production formula established for cattle for slaughter weight would constitute the price of entry into the processing sector. Price differentials by grade, weight and indexing would be established.

8. The National Meat Authority would be responsible for the assembly, allocation and distribution of all slaughter cattle sold into the domestic commercial market and would have power over all imports and exports of live slaughter cattle, dressed beef and beef products.

9. Administration costs would be recovered from an assessment levied on slaughter cattle but would be included in the cost-of-production formula.

10. As the full regulatory agency, the NMA would be able to exercise control over total beef supplies entering the market by projecting supply against future demand needs. This would enable it to level out the flow of cattle going to market and further regulate supply by calling forward cattle of lighter or heavier weights, removing surplus feeder cattle for slaughter, seeking additional markets or sources of supply.

11. The NMA would declare all commercial and custom feeding facilities, processing plants, abattoirs, etc., as "works for the general advantage of Canada" and require all such facilities be registered and licensed. (Feed mills and country elevators now are.)

12. The NMA would have powers to impose penalties on all violations related to the buying, selling, processing, transportation and distribution of regulated products.

13. In the allocation of increases in the cow herd by province, the present production level would constitute the first step in allocation. Future increases would be related in a proportional way to historic production patterns which would assure that production increases occurred in the most efficient production areas.

14. Provincial increases in the cow herd would be granted to individual producers on a priority system which would give priority to smaller operators, beginning operators, and larger operators.

15. The NMA would report on its operations annually to Parliament and report periodically to producers through public information meetings, newsletters, etc.

CONSTRAINTS:

1. The preceding model is conceived as one which would best serve the interests of producers and consumers because it is orderly, efficient and just. It would replace the current free market system for determination of "value" based on profit opportunity for the buyer with an administered price system for determination of "value" based on the producers = cost of production. The major constraints to this concept are:

   a) The willingness of federal and provincial governments to exercise their powers to effect the needed legislation changes.

   b) The willingness of the various power groups operating under the present system to co-operate (as they now partly do in the sale of industrial milk and eggs).

2. The model projects the cost-of-production prices for feeder and slaughter cattle as being the market prices. As a consequence, no stabilization program would be needed. The major constraint at present to this concept is that other red meats (pork, sheep and lamb) would be open-priced. Since producers of these products often sell at below cost of production, we can assume beef prices would be relatively higher and could result in a further drop in consumer demand and threaten the total concept.

   An interim beef stabilization program might need to be developed to offset the ill effects of price competition from pork, mutton and lamb. Turkeys and broilers could also compete in this situation since they are now priced provincially. Under no circumstances should a National Beef Stabilization Program be accepted unless it is in conjunction with a single-desk selling program based on a cost-of-production formula and represents a step toward establishing a NMA.

3. A further constraint to the effective operation of a National Meat Authority plan for beef is the current system of marketing for feed grains.

   All commercial domestic feed grains sold in

Canada need to be placed under an orderly marketing system and sold under a cost-of-production formula which will recognize comparative value in feeding. This would establish a degree of price equality between regions and stabilize the beef cost-of-production formulas.

EGGS:

1. In order to protect the domestic market for Canadian producers, the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency through the provincial egg marketing agencies, should be given the power to market domestically and control the import and export of eggs and egg products. Levies or profits derived from imported eggs or egg products should supplement producer levies related to supply management.

2. Maximum egg production quota should be set at 15,000 hens or approximately 300,000 dozen eggs annually to any one individual or corporate producer.
3. All producers should be required to register, but those producers with 50 laying hens or less should be eligible for exemption for marketing regulations.

4. Regulations should be enacted to prevent individuals or corporations engaged in the hatchery business from acquiring any egg production quota.

5. In instances where a reduction in egg quotas is required, such reductions must first apply to units of operation in excess of 15,000 layers.

6. Only the four top grades:

   - “A” Extra Large
   - “A” Large
   - “A” Medium, and
   - “A” Small

   should be permitted to be sold for table use by retail outlets.

7. A uniform retail price should be established by the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency and such price be subject to negotiations and ratification by producers.

8. The re-establishment of country grading stations should be set up under public control.

9. The government of Canada should refuse to implement the Orderly Marketing Task Force recommendations for a two-tiered (industrial/table) egg price classification. [Jan.’95]

10. The NFU will engage with provincial marketing boards to advocate to raise the limit of non-quota laying hens on a farm to at least a maximum of 500 birds across the country. [Nov. ‘18]

DAIRY POLICY:

Basic Principles

The basic principles of the NFU Dairy Policy shall be:

1. That Canadian Dairy Policy be as simple as possible to be easily understood by all farmers.

2. Recognition of the importance of maintaining a sound dairy industry in Canada, capable of returning to the producer-farmer a price for the product which will return costs of production and a fair return for his/her capital investment, management and labour skills.

3. That the Government of Canada, through its agency, the Canadian Dairy Commission:

    a) Recognize the principle that Canadian producers must be given priority as suppliers of the domestic market for dairy products.

    b) Pursue a more positive and aggressive policy to expand outlets for Canadian dairy products through food aid and social programs at home and abroad.

    [Nov.00]

4. It must also be recognized that it is in the public interest to have a reasonable inventory of dairy products at all times. The cost of maintaining this inventory should be the responsibility of the government.

5. To stabilize the dairy industry in Canada with a five-year forecast of requirements, policies and returns to enable farmers to plan production patterns with forecasts to be updated annually.

6. That a proper national price relationship between producers in different provinces be calculated in such a way as to narrow the wide disparity which presently exists in fluid and manufacturing milk prices between provinces.

7. The present market share system provides the necessary form of supply management to prevent over-production, providing imports are similarly controlled, eg., import quotas formed on the same basis under which Canadian dairy producers are now operating.

Policy Proposals

The NFU calls for the implementation of the following specific policy recommendations in order to achieve stability in the dairy industry consistent with the basic principles outlined above.

1. That at the earliest possible time, prices for all milk of top quality be pooled in such a way as to reflect a blended price return on weighted price averages resulting from the end use for which such milk is utilized.

2. Special stabilization consideration be accorded to cream producers in an attempt to overcome the disparity between butter and skim milk production and consumption.

3. That the federal government shall encourage the expansion of milk production in Canada and encourage increased use of dairy products by the following means:

    a) Developing and implementing a comprehensive national school milk program with quality standards.

    b) Developing a milk program for supplementing the diet of low income groups in our society.

    c) Take immediate action to ban all imports of imitation or synthetic dairy-type products as well as their production within Canada.

    d) Make significant research funds available to develop alternate ways of marketing our natural dairy products.

    e) Fund research to develop quick and inexpensive tests for drug residues and carcass inspection for resistant strains of pathogens harmful to humans.

    f) Ban the use of the synthetic drug, Bovine Growth Hormone, and once such a ban has been declared, ban from human consumption the meat of dairy cattle treated with artificial growth hormones.

    [Jan.95]

    g) Identify all imported products as to whether they come from rBGH-treated cows.

    [Jan. 95]

4. That the Canadian Dairy Commission be called upon to:

   a) Form an aggressive sales department to maintain and promote the consumption of dairy products in both domestic and foreign markets.

   b) Assist in the development and promotion of new dairy products, eg., include 2 + 10 milk in a national school milk program.

   c) Develop stringent controls to prevent large dairy corporations from gaining market control, and reverse the present trend of large corporations gaining control.

   d) Promote the availability and use of Canadian natural cheeses at all Canadian embassies and other government depots and supply contracts.

   e) Make sure synthetic products are labelled as such so that consumers will not mistake them for natural dairy products.

   f) Develop a uniform pricing formula to be followed across Canada for the Multiple Component Pricing of raw milk and one which will be a true indicator of the cost of producing milk in Canada.

   g) Update and maintain a cost-of-production formula on a 3-month basis to give dairy farmers a fair return on the milk they produce. [Dec.96]

The following resolution was passed at the 31st Annual Convention: [Nov.00]

WHEREAS Section 5 of the NFU policy statement needs revision and updating,

[Nov.00]

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 5 of the NFU policy statement be referred to a special committee of the National Board to be reviewed and updated, and then report to the next National Convention. [Nov.00]

5. Further NFU policy requirements are:

   a) That all existing milk quotas be non-negotiable and become the property of the responsible government agencies in each province and that, where applicable, such agencies take control of all buying and selling of milk quota and that the price of quota paid to a producer who is desirous of selling his/her quota, be reduced on an equitable compensation basis, in stages to nil, over the next 10 years.

   b) That such agencies transfer quota when available to other producers at buying prices until such time as quota values are reduced to nil.

   c) That in order to prevent speculation and third-party involvement in those provinces where negotiable quotas are currently practised, a First Year Maintenance clause be invoked whereby producers are obligated to fill the quota they purchase within that dairy year.

   d) That, as soon as possible, allocating agencies transfer quota to producers based on the following principles and priority:

      i) Producers holding less than 132,290 litres (300,000 lbs.) total quota.

      ii) Beginning farmers (including up to three working partners in one unit) up to the basic quota of 132,290 litres each.

      iii) Producers with less than 220,480 litres quota desiring to increase operations up to 220,480 litres.

      iv) Upper limit for an individual or corporate farm be 308,670 litres. In cases of amalgamated or expanded family operations, the base of308,670 litres be increased for up to two additional working partners by 220,480 litres each.

   e) That in recognition of the preceding basic principles of quota allocation, freely transferable quotas between producers in any form, including auction, must end.

   f) That lending and borrowing of MSQ be administered by provincial milk marketing boards or agencies with no price attached thereto and be continued with maximum limits set to 10% of a producers annual quota in order to smooth out unpredictable variations and better utilize the available MSQ allotted by the CDC.

   g) That a beginning farmer not be subject to a transfer levy, provided he/she commits him/herself to stay in production for a minimum of three years.

   h) That market share quotas be extended to cover total domestic needs, including fluid requirements, and be the basis for distribution of all subsidies. Said MSQ become the

responsibility of the CDC and be administered by provincial agencies, thus providing the structure necessary for adequate supply management.

i) That MSQ be equitably distributed to present producers meeting necessary quality requirements and provisions be made for orderly entry of new producers.

j) That MSQ be allocated to various regions in Canada in a planned, rational manner determined by the productive ability as well as the social needs of the area, rather than in a haphazard manner dictated by economic pressures and/or profit-oriented corporate decisions. Said allocations be reassessed annually.

k) That the Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee disallow interprovincial movement of quote in any year that seven or more provinces have indication by February 1 that their quota is running over 60 per cent of their allotment. Interprovincial movement of quota must be so designed as to not encourage over-production by provincial marketing agencies or governments.

l) That the size of the quota sleeve between domestic production requirements and total market sharing quota never be allowed to exceed 5% of total MSQ.

m) That reductions in a producers market share quota be held in reserve and restored when markets develop, but under no circumstances should said quota be assigned to a producer whose aggregate fluid and/or market share quota totals more than 308,670 litres of milk or butterfat equivalent, nor should the effect of such reassignment be to increase a milk producers quota beyond the 308,670 litres upper limit, but that each additional partner be allowed 220,480 litres.

n) That when a producer ceases milk production and applies for re-entry as a producer within five years, his request will be subject to review by the allocating authority.

o) That imports of dairy products be allowed only when domestic demand exceeds domestic supply and that the present cheese import quota be reduced to a level that cheese imports are in balance with cheese exports.

p) That strong border protections from foreign dairy ingredients are maintained. [Nov.'14]

q) That the owner of a dairy cow with brucellosis be compensated at the actual value plus loss of income based on the herd average production until reinstated as a producer. We further request that the Minister of Agriculture reinstate the administration of a final brucellosis test on all cattle ordered to be slaughtered on the basis of preliminary tests.

r) That governments see that such necessary equipment as cream cans and cream separators and replacement parts be available to producers through importation if necessary.

s) As an interim measure, provincial marketing agencies should reserve quota accumulated through a transfer levy and maintenance clause and be allocated to new producers. Such quota should be allocated with no price attached to a maximum of 50,000 litres of market share quota. When the producer ceases production, this allocated quota would be returned directly to the provincial marketing agency.

t) Beginning and small producers who want to expand should get first priority in the allocation of quota. The following criteria should be used in establishing upper limits per producer. [Nov.01]

- a maximum of 1-1/2 animal units/hectare [Nov.01]
- support for biodiversity and multi-functionality of the rural landscape [Nov.01]
- the production system must fully respect the humane treatment of animals. [Nov.01]
- that each provincial pool retain ownership of the quota, and that each region retain some flexibility in determining rules by which that quota is allocated to beginning dairy farmers in that province. [Nov. 03]

6. In addition to the above policy recommendations, the NFU should:

a) Devise a formula to arrive at a price goal which can take into consideration price

changes required to fulfil basic principle No. 2 of the dairy policy statement.

b) Press that farmers not be penalized for the deterioration of milk quality after it leaves the farm gate.

c) Press provincial marketing agencies not to allocate license fees collected from producers to other farm organizations for membership fees.

d) Write a history of the Kraft boycott as a means of informing farmers and the public at large of the monopolistic position this international giant has in the control of the cheese industry including the concept of the NFU as a bargaining unit.

e) Ensure that NFU briefs on national dairy policy be presented early in January.

f) Continue to seek observer status on the Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee.

g) Press the Government of Canada to adhere to the tariff rate levels as currently negotiated in 1994, and actively support the position that GATT (the WTO) takes precedence over NAFTA. [Jan. 95]

h) Lobby the Government of Canada to reclassify butter oil/sugar blends under a tariff line that has a tariff rate quota. [Nov.97]

i) Demand that the Canadian government refuse to reduce tariffs which safeguard supply-managed sectors during the round of WTO negotiations commencing in 1999. [Dec.98]

j) Because the federal government is failing to curb dairy imports in excess of its World Trade Organization (WTO) Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) obligations, and because these excess imports cost Canadian dairy farmers millions, the NFU urges the federal government to stick to the 5% level of milk imports required under WTO TRQs. [Nov.'01]

k) The NFU, in co-operation with Richard Lloyd, shall work to develop a presentation (book or movie) of international quality on the BST story for purposes of education and contingent on raising funds for the project. [Nov.'99]

l) Rural communities benefit from local small industry through jobs and other economic activity. On-farm processing and on-farm stores increase rural tourism and this provides information exchange between farmers and consumers. This also shortens the distance food is transported. Therefore, the NFU urges Dairy Farmers of Canada and the provincial dairy boards to actively assist and accommodate member-producers' on-farm processing and marketing ventures. [Nov.'00]

7. Contracted Export Milk (CEM) often undermines the milk price in recipientcountries. Further, CEM continues to bring trade challenges and it undermines consumer acceptance of domestic supply management. Therefore, the NFU will urge the Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee and the Canadian Dairy Commission to limit export production to 3% of producers' quotas. [Nov.'01]

8. As a result of the federal government's refusal to limit the importation of milk casein and other protein fractions, Canadian farmers are suffering lost sales, lower incomes, and quota reductions. The NFU calls on the federal government to implement Article 28 of the GATT to ensure milk casein and other protein fractions are brought under tariff. As an interim measure, dairy farmers must be compensated for loss of both quota and market share. [Nov.'06]

That the NFU continue to call on the federal government to ensure ingredients from the diafiltration process or any other process that separates milk into component parts are treated as dairy and their import into Canada is restricted. [Nov. '16]

9. Due to increasing demand for safe supplies of raw milk, the NFU will work with governments and dairy supply management boards to implement protocols—within the context of supply-management—to facilitate the sale of raw milk products to those Canadians wishing to purchase them. [Nov.'06]

FRUIT, VEGETABLE, TREE AND LUMBER POLICY

1. The NFU calls for the establishment of a National Fruit and Vegetable Authority to regulate the marketing of fruit and vegetables in Canada in accordance with the principles and policy goals of the NFU.

2. The NFU shall attempt to have legislation enacted whereby:

   a) The names of any person, persons, or organizations doing the actual importing in each specific instance, will be fully recorded as a matter of public record, with Agriculture Canada.

   b) Such legislation should prohibit the importation of fruits and vegetables which have been subjected to agricultural chemicals which are prohibited from use in Canada. We demand more stringent and rapid research by the Canadian government on the use of agricultural chemicals.

   c) The NFU shall attempt to have provincial legislation passed which will require that all imported fruit and vegetables and derived products be clearly labelled as such at consumer level which is not now in effect and further that they must meet the same specifications of grade and quality as those produced in Canada.

   d) Further, that products imported into Canada in any form, and being mixed and marketed as a Canadian product or otherwise, must be clearly labelled as containing specific imported ingredients.

   e) The National Farmers Union shall press the federal and provincial governments to establish and enforce a standard contract for use between the grower or marketing agency and the processor for all fruit and vegetable production and sale.

   f) The NFU shall seek the establishment and enforcement by government of grade standards for vegetables sold to processors.

   g) The NFU shall urge the Departments of Employment and Immigration, Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Horticultural Council to put in place measures that will ensure the adequate availability ofproperly trained farm labour who are paid at least the minimum wage in each respective province.

3. a) Fruit and vegetable-producing members ofthe NFU shall strive to co-operate nationally on market information, input seed supplies, market sharing, informationregarding local contractual arrangements, rate negotiations, etc., and shall be responsible for passing pertinent information to National Board and/or NFU and keep local committees informed at all times.

   b) The NFU recommends that packaging of fruits and vegetables be done in standard metric size containers at farm level, enabling collective bargaining on packaging supplies.

   c) The family farm concept shall be encouraged. Consumer education shall be stressed.

   d) The National Fruits and Vegetables Committee shall study the feasibility of standardizing grades and prices respecting all fruits and vegetables in Canada.

   e) The NFU urges the federal government to stop reducing federal inspection services and to not proceed with any Bill which would allow circumvention of regulatory legislation. [Nov.'99]

   f) NFU shall pressure provincial governments to continue to regard farmers markets as an extension of farm-gate sales.

   g) The NFU calls upon the federal government to invoke countervail legislation whenever the importation of subsidized foreign fruit, vegetables, wine, etc., causes unfair competition and economic strain on Canadian producers.

   h) The production sector of the horticulture industry must be encouraged through education to adopt crop rotation practices to avoid land degradation and the development of alternate production systems.

i) The NFU recommends measures requiring all products to use standardized metric recyclable containers. [Nov.'99]

j) The NFU recommends better labelling of process foods in respect to:

i) all contents
ii) country of origin
iii) bio-genetic products
iv) origin of content and percentage
[Jan. '95]

k) The Indian Head Tree Nursery should remain in operation in the service of farmers. [Nov.'13]

4. **Quarintinable Pests**

a) We urge Agriculture Canada ensure that adequate and uniform testing for quarantinable pests be undertaken in all provinces.

b) We demand that Agriculture Canada, upon request, provide producers with such test results on their potatoes and rutabagas.

c) We demand Agriculture Canada test all seed potatoes, destined for Canada from the United States, for the presence of quarantinable pests and accordingly refuse entry, if such seed tests are found positive.

d) We request that Agriculture Canada issue phytosanitary-free certificates, upon final inspection, where quarantinable pest tests for fruits and vegetables prove negative, and that producers be accordingly guaranteed access to all markets within Canada.

e) In circumstances where fruit and vegetable producers are found to have a quarantinable pest, adequate and just compensation should be provided immediately which will recover cost of production for any crop which has been infected.

f) The NFU shall seek just compensation for fruit and vegetable farmers sufferingfinancial losses from unnecessary movement restrictions and quarantines imposed by the Government of Canada.

5. The NFU shall attempt to have legislation passed which will restrict dumping of surplus foreign stocks on Canadian markets during crucial market seasons of same, such legislation to have application on authorization of NFU and have variability enough to differentiate between various forms of imported fruits and vegetables.

6. The NFU recommends that the federal and provincial governments move to expand overseas markets.

7. The NFU shall investigate the availability of a container to replace the polybag pack for fruits and vegetables so that bruising might be reduced.

Potatoes

1. When supplies of potatoes in raw forms are available in Canada, processors shall be prohibited from importing the same.

2. The NFU shall attempt to have a processors grade for raw potatoes established nation-wide.

3. The NFU should work toward the development of standard contract forms for use between potato producers and processors.

4. We shall work to ensure that supply management includes production quotas with the concept of delivery quotas on potatoes as follows:

a) An upper limit of 100,000 cwt. per producer. [Dec.98]

b) Production in excess of this limit to be delivered only after all other producers have had an opportunity to deliver their allocated quota.

5. The NFU increase pressure on the Minister of Agriculture and the federal government to implement a Canadian Potato Commission. In the interim we support the establishment of a Maritime Potato Pool to be a service group to provide product assembly, sharing of marketing information, embody orderly marketing principles as defined by the NFU and that it dedicate itself to maximizing returns to producers.

6. The NFU urges that potatoes be placed in part 1 of the CFIA variety registration system, and continue to have financial support and be subjected to preregistration testing and merit assessment. [Nov. '09]

7. Because there is a characteristic breakdown of the "New Leaf" variety of genetically-altered potatoes, the NFU will lobby the federal

government to withhold approval on all "New Leaf" variety genetically-altered potatoes for two more years in order to have further testing done.

8. The NFU will lobby the federal government to compensate P.E.I. potato producers for market losses incurred from quarantine measures in response to the discovery of potato wart. [Nov.'00]

9. The NFU demands that federal and provincial governments on a 60-40 basis, compensate potato farmers for 2008 losses at $1,000/acre.

[Nov. '09]

Tobacco Policy

deleted at 30th Annual Convention [Nov.'99]

Long-Term Solutions to Tobacco Displacement [Nov.'04]

1. The production and manufacturing of tobacco is highly regulated by government, and generates considerable income for the government in the form of taxes. Multinational tobacco companies are increasingly turning to imported tobacco in an effort to boost profits, which leaves domestic tobacco producers and their communities in a difficult position. The NFU calls on provincial and federal governments to implement long-term solutions and meaningful financial commitments to maintain the viability of family farmers in their quest to diversify. [Nov.'04]

Shelterbelts

1. The Indian Head PFRA Shelterbelt program should remain in operation and be funded by the federal government. [Nov.'12]

Horticulture

1. Therefore, be it resolved that the NFU demands that the federal and provincial governments on a 60-40 basis, compensate horticulturalistsfor losses. [Nov. '09]

Hemp

The National Farmers Union demands a response by Health Canada to "The Canadian Hemp Industry Review Project".

The Government of Canada should include the following policies in new Canadian Hemp regulations:

- Faster processing of applications for licenses to grow hemp so approval comes before seeding time,
- Faster processing of applications for the research of hemp seed,
- Faster processing of licenses and permits to export hemp,
- Elimination of field crop sampling of Canada's approved hemp varieties,
- Expedited & funded research for making hemp seed products available as feed for livestock,
- Faster transparent process to have the addition of the "Jutta" hemp variety and other worthy new varieties onto the recommended/approved seeds list to avoid a shortage of appropriate seeds for certain areas, and
- Giving the Canadian Hemp industry a voice at the table with Health Canada to review and recommend regulations in respect to hemp. [Dec. '10]

Honey

1. The NFU will work towards a National Honey Marketing Agency to regulate the marketing of honey and bees-wax.

2. This single-desk selling agency will have the authority to manage supplies and regulate imports.

3. Provincial governments should delegate the necessary marketing power so the national agency has power to regulate the intra-provincial marketing of honey.

4. In supply-management situations, quotas should not be marketable or transferable between producers. Quotas should revert to the agency when they are no longer required by a producer.

5. Producers with 10 hives or less should be required to register but be eligible for exemption from marketing at their own option.

6. The NFU shall encourage publicly-funded research into the problem of bee sting allergies.

7. To demonstrate a long-term commitment toward honey producers, the federal government should implement a deficiency payment program based on the following principles:

a) Target prices based on costs of production;

b) Payment on product marketed;

c) $50,000 maximum payment to eligible producers.

Beekeeping Industry

The NFU will work to have the following procedures and regulations accepted across Canada so the beekeeping industry will have some protection from the use of agricultural chemicals:

1. Provincial monitoring and control agencies be established in each province.

2. All apiary locations be registered and their locations be noted on maps, both at the central registry and at local municipal or county offices.

3. Anyone planning to spray must check with the central registry or municipal office about the location of any bee-yard or apiary within 5 km of the area to be sprayed.

4. If bee-yards are located within 5 km of a field or other area to be sprayed, the beekeeper must be notified and given 12 hours to move, cover, or make other arrangements to protect the hives.

5. By mutual arrangement and consent between the sprayer applicator and the beekeeper, the spraying might be done in the early morning or late evening when honeybees are not flying.

6. If no alternative sprays are available, the use of sprays that leave a residual poison shall not be used in areas where honeybees are flying or foraging.

7. A fund should be set up to compensate beekeepers who have honeybees damaged by pesticides.

8. If a beekeeper does not wish to co-operate by registering his/her bee-yard locations, or if a beekeeper is given notice about spraying that will be done, and he/she chooses to do nothing, then that beekeeper should not be eligible for compensation from the above fund.

9. Farmers, spray operators, municipalities, or anybody else that decides to commence spraying without checking about bee-yards within 5 km, or without informing beekeepers must compensate beekeepers for loss or damage.

FOOD INSPECTION: [Dec.'96]

1. Food safety is the legal responsibility of Health Canada, not industry or consumers. The Health Protection Branch (HPB) Transition plan drastically weakens the protection of public health and the reputation of our food system. Health Canada managers and committees must work at arm's length with industry in order to maintain objectivity. To these ends, the NFU demands. [Dec.'98]

   a) An immediate termination of the HPB Transition plan. [Dec.'98]

   b) Termination of the Acost recovery@ model of funding. [Dec.'98]

   c) Restoration of a fully adequate budget for HPB to carry out its own independent food and drug safety programs. [Dec.'98]

   The NFU will join like-minded groups in publicizing its position. [Dec.'98]

2. Health Canada managers are contravening the *Food and Drug Act* by making Aadministrative decisions@ to approve drugs without consent from Health Canada science evaluators and by using consultants' reports. Therefore, the NFU will demand that Health Canada uphold the *Food and Drug Act* by discontinuing the practice of making administrative approvals on drugs that its own scientific evaluators refuse to approve. [Nov.'99]

3. The Government of Canada currently participates in Codex Alimentarius committees in a manner which excludes public participation and accountability. Further, Codex isdominated by corporate influence. Therefore, the Canadian government (Health Canada) must facilitate public discussion of the issues before the Codex committees. The Government of Canada must also provide access to the relevant scientific information necessary for public discussion of issues before Codex committees. Finally, the Canadian government must provide information on who Canada's representatives are at Codex meetings, how they are chosen, and how their mandate is determined and carried out. [Nov.'99]

4. Health Canada, not the CFIA or Agriculture Canada, must be solely responsible for the enforcement of the *Food and Drug Act.* [Nov.'99]

5. Federal and/or provincial governments must enforce the labelling of all foods so consumers can identify: place of origin, processing plant, what procedures have been used in its processing (i.e. irradiation), whether ingredients are genetically altered, and whether the food is organic. [Nov.'99]

6. Canada's current regulatory testing and inspection services are not protecting the Canadian food supply nor providing consumers or customers with confidence in the food supply. The NFU calls on the Government of Canada to conduct a full review of Canada's food regulatory testing and inspection procedures, with the emphasis on consumer awareness and protection. [Nov.'00]

7. The federal government must adequately pay farmers for the time they spend complying with the new on-farm food safety program. [Nov.'04]

8. In order to facilitate family farms which market directly to consumers, and to ensure the integrity of the Canadian food inspection system, the NFU recommends appropriate inspection exemptions for small scale direct farm marketers, as long as these products are labelled as "un-inspected." [Nov.'06]

Inspection Fees

1. Because all consumers benefit from safe, high-quality food, the cost of inspection fees should be borne by the taxpayers of Canada. [Dec.'96]

2. Inspection fees should be paid by all taxpayers. Under various cost recovery programs, governments are forcing farmers to pay these fees. Therefore the NFU continues to protest high cost-recovery/inspection fees on farm commodities. [Nov.'97]

3. The Federal Government shall, annually, hire an independent auditor to audit its inspection program and provide the results of that audit to farmers. That audit shall report on the costs of delivering all the various inspection programs such as field inspections, bacterial ring rot inspection, and seed and tablestock potato inspection. [Dec.'96]

4. The NFU calls on the Federal Government to immediately reinstate and maintain seed potato inspections in all seed and process potato-growing areas of Canada. [Dec.'96]

5. The Canadian Government, through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), plans to cease delivering inspection services and, instead, accredit and monitor third party inspectors. This will lead to higher costs to farmers and could lead to inconsistent or lower quality inspection services. Therefore, the NFU shall lobby the federal government to administer and deliver inspection and quarantine services in Canada. [Nov.'97]

Meat Inspection [Nov.'99]

1. Federal and provincial governments are planning to implement National Meat and Poultry Regulations across Canada. These regulations will result in the closure of many smaller slaughterhouses. Therefore, the NFU recommends that governments not implement the National Meat and Poultry Regulations, and instead encourage slaughterhouses interested in interprovincial trade to comply with federal regulations and allow the smaller slaughterhouses to remain under provincial inspection. Further, the NFU recommends that the provincial governments establish regulations equivalent to national standards and that provincial governments supply funding to bring facilities up to those national standards when needed. [Nov.'99]

2. Small abattoirs represent an important link between family farms and consumers. Not only can provincially-inspected abattoirs provide custom services for farmers, they can supply consumers' demands for specific types of meat, including organic, hormone-free, and grass-fed meat. However, the number of provincially-inspected abattoirs continues to decline. Ontario alone has lost over 150 small abattoirs between 1991 and 2001. The NFU calls on the Canadian and provincial governments to support small abattoirs by: [Nov.'03]

    a) Creating incentive programs for small plants to meet standards or transfer ownership; [Nov.'03]

    b) Creating incentive programs to encourage the opening of new plants;

    [Nov.'03]

    c) Offering more training programs for aspiring meat cutters and butchers; and
    [Nov.'03]

    d) Tailoring standards and inspections to the requirements of small plants.
    [Nov.'03]

3. Independent meat processors which implement 100% testing of their product for BSE must be granted 100% certification for products which test negative for BSE according to CFIA-approved standards. [Nov.'04]

4, The NFU will lobby the federal and provincial governments to develop a mechanism for the legal interprovincial direct - to-consumer sales ofmeat. [Nov '17]

LAND POLICY

Foreign and Corporate Control of Farmland

1. The NFU views with alarm the escalation of foreign ownership of our most precious resource, land, both agricultural and non-agricultural. Some provinces have enacted legislation to restrict the further purchase of Canadian land by aliens, and in some instances, non-residents of the province.

2. The NFU feels there is little difference between an investor from West Germany and an investor from Toronto owning farmland merely as an investment. In both cases, this investment of capital excludes local farmers from acquiring the land, and the effect on rural disintegration is precisely the same.

3. A public campaign should be launched to raise awareness of the impact on food sovereignty of the loss of local land ownership. [Nov.'12]

4. We believe provincial governments should enact legislation restricting agricultural land ownership to actual farmers to ensure that agricultural resources remain in the control of agricultural producers.

5. We believe that those people who work the land should have control over the management of their food production unit. We view with alarm the encroachment of industrial corporations into the business of primary food production through direct ownership, vertical integration and contract farming.

6. There is less land suitable for agriculture in Canada than is generally realized. Although Canada has the second largest land area of any nation, only 12 percent of that area is suitable for some kind of agricultural production. However, considerably less than half of this is capable of sustained production of common field crops. As well, a substantial percentage of good agricultural land is currently under forest.

7. More than half of Canada's best agricultural land and one-third of our second-best land is within a 50-mile radius of the country's largest cities. Because it lies within direct commuting distance of the major population centres, there is a great deal of pressure to use this land for rural residences, hobby farms, recreational resorts and speculative holdings.

8. Agricultural land in Canada has been lost as a result of mismanagement in two areas. Urban and industrial sprawl encroaches yearly upon highly productive farm land. The NFU believes that in most cases the development of this land for non-agricultural purposes was unnecessary. With proper study and consideration of the soil types and best use of land around urban centres, the same development could have occurred in the same general vicinity but without destroying agricultural land.

9. Another area of concern is improper cultivation of farm land whether we lose agriculture land to concrete and steel or lose it through poor conservation practices, the end result is the same. Land must be treated with respect so it can be sustained as a life-giving source.

10. Land will not be preserved as prime agricultural land as long as poor husbandry practices are encouraged. It has become necessary for the farmer to increase yields in the short-term in order to cover increasing production costs and to minimize the effects of the cost-price squeeze on the operation. If the land is over-capitalized and then forced to provide a return to the investor on this capital, it very predictably suffers.

11. The NFU views land as a natural resource and not a commodity to be exploited. We stress that the subject of land abuse is an acute national problem and must be dealt with in depth in the immediate future by developing a national soil conservation program. The NFU must continue to pressure governments to provide incentives for farmers to practise good soil conservation.

12. We urge the federal government to establish a Royal Commission into the whole question of land use in Canada. This commission should consider the loss of prime agricultural land to various uses; the effect of foreign and non-resident ownership and corporate ownership of farm and development land; the economic consequences for consumers in terms of food production - domestic versus imported, and alternatives for land tenure.

13. In keeping with the spirit of a public Royal Commission, we ask the federal and provincial governments to have the various ways and means of tenure of occupancy under continual public debate, to consistently explore all possible avenues of tenure, so that the subject will receive continued public scrutiny and the public in turn will not lose touch with an important heritage - the land, and lose control to powers from within or outside this country.
14. We recommend a National Land Use and Tenure Policy where the provinces transfer

such powers as necessary to the federal government to achieve this goal.

15. To prevent soil degradation and erosion, the NFU will work to have legislation passed requiring lending institutions to establish forage crops with an emphasis on a grass legume mixture on any land under their control and these forage crops not be harvested.

16. We recommend that provincial and federal governments provide funding for personal and material resources to assist farm families committed toward a transition to sustainable agriculture.

17. The practices of many pasture and forage-based livestock family farmers promote conservation of the soil. The NFU urges the federal and provincial governments to pay livestock family farmers for increasing and/or maintaining carbon in pastures, hay land and forest land as a means of establishing long-term economic stability. [Nov.'07]

18. The NFU will advocate for Canada (and provinces) to provide concrete supports for farmers to build soil health and minimize soil contamination (such as funding programs, expanded extension services, and clear, objective, and measurable goals for soil health as well as steps for achieving them). [Nov.'18]

19. The NFU will advocate for provinces to work with conservation authorities and municipalities to set local soil health standards and baselines, and then incentivize farmers who meet them. [Nov.'18]

20. The NFU calls for pension and investment funds to divest from farmland. [Nov. '20]

21. To ensure more transparency the NFU calls on all levels of government to make land ownership data available to the public at no cost and by monitoring farmland ownership and reporting changes annually. [Nov. '22]

22. The NFU will demand provincial and national governments enact legislation restricting farmland ownership by farmland investment companies. [Nov. '22]

Farm Size

1. With the development of new technology and larger machines, there appears to be an accelerating trend to concentration of ownership of farm land into ever larger production units. This trend is leading to the breakdown of rural communities and consequent erosion of the quality of life in rural Canada.

2. As a concentration of ownership of farm land occurs, we develop an elite class of land-owning citizens; the privilege of being a landowner is denied to a growing proportion of the population. As population increases, land is fast becoming a scare commodity.
3. When land is transferred in the marketplace, competition for that land drives prices up. In times when prices for farm commodities rise, buyers of farm land tend to capitalize gains made in the price of farm products into the value of the land. This has the effect of automatically increasing the cost of production. As land values rise, it becomes more difficult for new and young farmers to enter farming.

4. We recommend that each province should take an inventory of the ownership and control of farm land within its boundaries, and maintain a running inventory by requiring all changes in land tenure to be reported as they occur.

5. Where concentration of ownership appears to be undesirable, legislation should be introduced to limit farm size to a given number of acres, based on potential productivity of the soil, that may be owned or controlled by any individual farmer, farm corporation or cooperative farm.

6. In order to save the family farm, Canadian governments and farmers must have a clear understanding of what constitutes a family farm. The NFU endorse the following definition:

   "A family farm is an operation that produces food or other agricultural products and where the vast majority of labour, capital, and management are provided by family members." [Nov.'00]
7. The NFU will advocate for similar legislation to the P.E.I Lands Protection Act, which protect provincial and territorial lands from ownership consolidation, to be applied across the country. [Nov.'23]

Farm Chemicals

1. The NFU has serious misgivings regarding the direction of modern agriculture and the increasing reliance upon chemical fertilizers and pest controls. There are many indications that good cultural practises are being neglected with the result that there has been a discernable increase in soil erosion across the country, even in the choicest agricultural regions.

2. It is necessary for the maintenance of high quality food production in Canada that better cultural practises be understood and applied consistently on Canadian farms to prevent erosion in both the short and long-term. The NFU is concerned about the effects of leaching, salination and pesticide residues on the soils and the impact on farm land of changing water tables, and the effect of multiple use of chemicals.

3. Good cultural practices were used in the past because these were the only ways known to maintain soil fertility and production. Today, we have an array of technological devices at our disposal that artificially increase the yield but are not conducive to long-term soil conservation.

4. The NFU feels that the preservation of land is of utmost importance and must be dealt with by the federal and provincial governments. To this end, we call for adequate restrictions on the licensing and use of agricultural chemicals, and that all agricultural chemicals be proven to be non-harmful to human beings and the environment, keeping in mind and in tune with the long-term productivity of the soil and the safety and purity of the water supply. Since more than 100 agricultural chemicals used in Canada do not have reliable research to guarantee their safe use, we ask provincial and federal governments to:

    a) Phase out the use of all agricultural chemicals that do not have reliable research to guarantee their safe use;

    b) Lobby federal and provincial governments as well as private research groups to increase the level of funding and effort given to finding ways to reduce the level of chemical dependency in food production and processing;

    c) Ban the advertising and promotion of all agricultural chemicals in all government and crown corporation publications and brochures;

    d) Introduce legislation to ban advertising of agricultural chemicals;

    e) Establish a task force with specialists from members of medical associations and other health care practitioners, the Department of Agriculture, Colleges of Agriculture and representatives from farm organizations and organic farmers to encourage and advise farmers on the best methods of engaging in non-chemical agriculture;

    f) The NFU Environmental Clean-Up Committee make available to NFU members the best information available on the danger of agricultural chemicals. The list of chemicals should include: the chemical name, the common names, the uses for the chemicals and a warning if they are dangerous to human health and the environment.

    g) The NFU to carry out an education program to expose the myths perpetuated by the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association and the Agricultural Institute of Canada;

    h) Provincial and federal governments establish regulations requiring returnable containers.

5. The NFU wants the federal and provincial governments to provide necessary funding to agricultural research institutions, including ecological agricultural centres, to carry out studies and programs to assist in maintaining high levels of production and conservation practises to reduce erosion of soil by wind and water, looking toward biological control rather than increasing use of toxic chemicals and over-use of fertilizers.

6. Because corporate tests of farm chemicals are known to be inadequate and at times inaccurate with respect to their effects on human health, the NFU should, through the efforts of its members, research the number of injuries and deaths that occur to farmers and their families who are using or are affected by chemicals; and the responsible levels of government should be requested to publish an annual report giving full details of all accidents, which would be made available to all farm groups for study.

    An appropriate study should be undertaken of the impact of agricultural chemical use upon individual families and the environment, compared to farm families who use no chemicals in farming.

    The NFU will establish a working group to prepare a factsheet on a variety of municipal roadside spray programs [Nov ‘17]

7. Because toxic agricultural chemical registration procedures are inadequate, the federal

government should deny registration of agricultural chemicals until:

a) The chemical's mode of action is fully understood;

b) The breakdown products and half-life of the chemical are known;

c) The chemical is demonstrated to work significantly better than chemicals already registered;

d) Studies on sub-lethal effects of the chemical on representative plant and animal life over at least ten generations are completed.

8. There should be a five-year moratorium on the use of neonicotinoid seed treatment for field crops. Health Canada should require the completion of independent scientific studies on the effects of neonicotinoids on honeybees, wild pollinators, and other species (including humans) with the results made public before any moratorium is lifted. [Nov.'13]

9. The federal government should place a temporary ban on all agricultural chemicals until research has been reviewed and they are proven to be safe when exposed to soil, groundwater, people or food, livestock, poultry and wildlife, non-targeted organisms. Any chemicals not proven safe should be immediately banned. Glyphosate, in particular, should be investigated due to its widespread use. [Nov.'12]

10. Until pesticide advertising is banned, it should contain the full label material of the product including the appropriate antidote, its toxicity to humans, crops and wildlife, its persistence in the soil and groundwater, whether or not it can be mixed with other chemicals, the parent company manufacturing the product, the chemical name of the product, and the cost per acre.

11. The federal government should enact regulations to ensure that:

a) Chemicals be dated as to year of manufacture;

b) A warranty be provided to cover costs of non-performing chemicals;

c) Price reductions be implemented after patent expiry;

d) More manufacturers' field representatives be available to monitor field applications;

e) That pamphlets be made available by chemical manufacturers to illustrate metric, imperial and U.S.A. measurements for chemical application to crops or proper dosages for the treatment of livestock.

12. The federal government should immediately appoint a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the cost and pricing of farm chemicals and make recommendations to Parliament toward pricing, length of patents and associated legislation.

13. The NFU calls on the Federal Government to ban the use of glyphosate as a desiccant or herbicide in food and feed crops just prior to harvest. [Nov. 14]

14. The NFU urges the federal government to track/document agricultural chemical usage across the country for the purpose of studying their long term effects. [Nov. '16]

15. The NFU will lobby provincial governments to undertake field bindweed control programs exploring the deployment of bindweed mites. [Nov. '18]

16. The NFU will encourage the government to mandate independent third-party testing of biological crop or soil enhancements. [Nov. '22]

Environmental Concerns

1. The NFU will build understanding about the inter-connectedness of the planetary crisis beyond carbon sequestration and about the link between landscape degradation and the disconnection of plant and animal agriculture by developing education strategies for NFU members, politicians and the public about the inter-connectedness of biodiversity, climate mitigation and resilience, and water and the nutrient cycles. [Nov. '21]

2. The NFU will promote policies to all levels of government which recognize the inter-connectedness of biodiversity, climate mitigation and resilience and water and nutrient cycles, including hedgerow preservation and restoration of resilient landscapes. [Nov.'21]

3. The increasing use of salt and other chemical substances for ice control on highways, bridges, etc., by municipalities, towns and cities is polluting

adjoining farms, waterways and public lands. We urge its excessive use be avoided.

2. We urge all levels of government apply pressure on industry to dispose of or recycle hazardous waste including containers on location of production. Substances which cannot be disposed of should be banned. Legislation should be implemented to impose strict regulations on industry and society to discourage pollution of the environment.

3. We call upon the provincial and federal governments to develop and enforce comprehensive emission standards for the control of acid rain. The federal government should also initiate discussions with other countries to develop standards on a world-wide basis.

4. Land, air, and groundwater around Fort McMurray should be examined for damages.[Nov.'11]

5. Basic principles of an environmental policy should include:

   a) Eco-agriculture studies in school curricula including the benefits of non-chemical farming;

   b) Research into improved methods of environmental farming and justification for pesticide use. In this regard the federal government must adequately fund Toxicity Research Centres and jointly fund with the provinces, ecological sustainable agriculture departments in universities across Canada;

   c) Incentives must be provided to preserve our land resource through proper cultural practices so they may benefit future generations;

   d) Registration and certification of food standards is required.

6. Conservation agreements and habitat protection legislation should not be reduced in term. [Nov.'12]

7. Spray drift should be dealt with as an environmental offense. [Nov.'14]

8. Any corporation or organization involved in a hazardous material spill which affects farmland should be required to pay for cleanup and loss of future income to the farmer. [Nov.'15]

9. Action must be taken to reduce waste generation and the demand this places on farm land for conversion to landfill sites. The NFU:

   a) Demands that both industry and the general public be required to establish effective waste reduction practices such as recycling;
   b) Encourage farmers whose lands are about to be converted to landfill sites to not relinquish their lands until effective waste reduction practices are in place;

   c) Approach the Canadian Environmental Law Association and other legal support agencies for legal assistance in this regard;

   d) That landfilling be used as a last resort in waste management.

10. We denounce the repression of peaceful protesters, including indigenous land protectors, and express its support for the rights of people to engage in acts of civil disobedience in defence of the preservation of water, air, land and wildlife for future generations. [Nov. '16]

    The NFU supports initiatives by Indigenous peoples to resist resource extraction and energy projects that disrupt Indigenous food and governance systems and interfere with the health of their lands, territories, and communities. [Nov. '17]

11. The NFU will study factors driving hedgerow removal, carry out public education regarding their value and the deleterious consequences of hedgerow removal in the light of climate resilience, biodiversity extinction, and the disruption of the terrestrial water cycle, and promote policies and regulation that address drivers of landscape degradation, especially hedgerow removal.

Wetland Policy:

1. The NFU wants the federal Minister of Finance to consider reducing the federal government's tax expenditure costs by withdrawing Ducks Unlimited (Canada's) registered charity status. [Jan. '95]

2. The Minister of the Environment, as the government's partner to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, should replace the present policy with one of reasonable compensation for private landowners of targeted 'wetlands' rather than the government's present policy of encouraging and supporting provincial

governments to acquire or otherwise encumber 'wetlands' on private property 'free of charge' by using the rues of changing regulatory land use and zoning processes at the local or municipal level.

3. Manitoba and Saskatchewan should optimize water retention to mitigate downstream flooding. [Nov.'14]

4. The NFU promotes the need to conduct and appropriately act upon cumulative environmental impact assessments of agricultural drainage. [Nov.'19]

5. The NFU will take steps to document, analyze, and raise the profile of associated agronomic, economic, environmental, and public policy implications of drainage. [Nov.'19]

Endangered Species and Spaces:

1. Any Endangered Species Act must protectendangered species and also protect and adequately compensate landowners. Compensation must include the following: [Nov.'99]

    a. Loss of productive capacity;

    b. Loss of convenience of operation;

    c. Loss in resale value; and

    d. Potential loss of a farm's viability. [Nov.'99]

2. The NFU will lobby for the halting of any new cultivation of, and development on, native grasslands. [Nov.'19]

3. The NFU will study factors driving hedgerow removal, carry out public education regarding their value and the deleterious consequences of hedgerow removal in the light of climate resilience, biodiversity extinction, and the disruption of the terrestrial water cycle, and promote policies and regulation that address drivers of landscape degradation, especially hedgerow removal. [Nov. '21]

4. The NFU advocates for government laws and policy to protect intact forest ecosystems and old growth forest from extractive industrial logging in order to safeguard essential biodiversity and to provide a buffer against run-away climate change. [Nov. '22]

5. The NFU advocates for government laws and policy that significantly reduce the size and number of clear-cuts, the volume of material removed from forested areas, as well as engaging with professionals in forestry and agrology to provide appropriate technical advice. [Nov. '22]

6. The NFU calls for an immediate end to deforestation (permanent forest removal) in Canada as called for at UN COP 26. [Nov. '22]

Urban and Industrial Development

1. We seriously question the advisability or necessity for land developers to own land for the purposes of urban, industrial or recreational development. We believe that such development should be publicly planned and that the public should acquire land for future use for such purposes.

2. The role of private developers would then be to contract to make the necessary improvements to such land. Experience has demonstrated that allowing private developers to acquire and own land leads to speculation in land for the purpose of capital gains, irrational land use and poorly planned communities.

3. Industrial development centered around large urban communities, coupled with urban sprawl, has already gobbled up much of the best agricultural land in Canada, as in other countries. The growth centres in Canada are projected to be in the St. Lawrence Valley, the golden horseshoe in Ontario and the Fraser Valley in British Columbia. If this trend is not controlled, millions more acres of the most productive farm land in this country will be covered with concrete and lost as a food resource base for future generations. The same trend is occurring around almost every urban centre as we see farm land being gobbled up by urban developers and ribbon or strip housing development occurring along the major thoroughfares.

4. There is need for a more rational policy for the construction of new highways, power lines and other public utilities, which cut large swaths out of farm land.

5. Public and private utilities such as highways, power lines, pipelines, railways, telephone lines, etc., are utilizing increasing quantities of farm land, and disrupting farm operations. We believe a more co-ordinated approach to the construction of such utilities could result in minimizing the destruction of farm land for such

purposes. A planned system of corridors whereby such utilities could use a common right of way and easement could, in many instances, result in more rational land use. In the interest of protecting wildlife habitat, all road allowances presently being farmed be returned to their former state by planting trees and grass.

6. We recommend an immediate freeze on urban and industrial development located on prime agricultural land and that such agricultural land be designated for agricultural use only. The preservation of farm land requires close co-operation between all levels of government. It is also imperative that local communities be involved as directly and deeply as possible. The higher levels of government should be responsible for determining the basic guidelines, and it is essential that land zoning be administered by the provincial government within the context of a National Land Policy. Federal/provincial legislation should be enacted prohibiting the use of Class 1, 2 and 3 soils for any industrial and residential development.

7. Subdivision developments continue to eat up farm land around Canada's metropolitan areas at an alarming rate, while Canadians are becoming increasingly dependent on imported food. In order to preserve farm land, policies need to be implemented which make farming an economically viable activity. [Nov.'04]

8. When land is needed for urban development, it should be purchased exclusively by a crown agency of the provincial and/or federal governments, as required to fulfil the needs of the municipality in the immediate future. Land being held for development should move into development at a price no greater than that of the last transfer before land valuation day, plus cost of services installed since the last transfer.

9. When land is purchased and/or expropriated for urban development, the farmer should receive full value of the land for farming purposes, plus adequate compensation for all inconveniences that may be imposed upon him/her.

10. Severances should not be granted to accommodate additional residences on farms. If an additional house is built, then it would become part of the total farm property.

11. The NFU calls upon the government of BC to: Institute a formal inquiry to determine:
    a) whether Site C dam is buildable given the major geological problems that have been identified
    b) whether it would be a threat to public safety
    c) how much it would cost
    d) immediately stop all major works on the Site C damn construction site pending the outcome of this inquiry. [Nov. '20]

12. The NFU will urge all politicians to publicly pledge to limit urban sprawl, including highways, onto all farmland and hold as their highest priority the protection of prime agricultural land (including class 1, 2, and 3 soils) from irreversible destruction via urban development or aggregate extraction. [Nov.'23]

Land Use and Tenure

1. The members of the generation which is in power must not treat the earth as something given by their parents, but rather as something borrowed from their children.

2. With the projected pressure of world population on food supplies, Canada should adopt a policy of preserving prime agricultural land for the purpose of food production.

3. The British Columbia Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is a model that should be strengthened and replicated across Canada. [Nov.'13]
4. Land zoned for agriculture should be classified according to productive capabilities.

5. Land zoned for agriculture should be sub-zoned for particular farming uses: eg., livestock, cash crop, poultry, etc.

6. Farm land particularly suited to specialized crops (eg. fruit and vegetable growing) should be dedicated exclusively to agriculture, even though it may require zero growth of development for other purposes. The federal and provincial governments in Canada should prevent the further loss of such land for purposes such as industrial uses or through flooding for hydro electric projects.

7. Historically, the accepted form of land tenure in this country has been through private ownership. While much can be said in favour of ownership as the most desirable form of land tenure, such as pride of ownership, security of tenure, retaining the tenure of the land in the family for future generations and capital gains, to name a few, there are also decided

disadvantages to private ownership.

8. A trend has been developing over the years toward lease or rental arrangements as an alternate form of land tenure. Most of these are leases from private individuals, absentee owners and corporations who are landowners. Some provinces hold a limited amount of crown land which is also leased to individual farmers and ranchers.

9. Having regard for the political realities of Canadian society and the farm community in particular, and recognizing the traditional deep-rooted relation of farm people to their land, the NFU recommends a system of land tenure policy that includes a system of public and private ownership which achieves the following goals:

   a) Preservation of the family and co-operative farm concept of agricultural production;
   b) Elimination of foreign, non-resident, and corporate ownership of farm land;
   c) Preservation of the rural community and broadly-based access to the productive resources of agriculture by Canadians;
   d) Preservation of the rights of native peoples, publicly supported in the assertion of those rights by an NFU informed on their aspirations and the historical relationship between First Nations and the government of Canada; [Nov.'14]
   e) Elimination of speculation and the trading of all land as a commodity;
   f) Establishment of the cost of land to the farmer according to its long-term productive ability so that the natural fertility of the soil may be preserved. The abuse of soils and ever-increasing concentration of ownership are directly related to the present high cost of land. The implementation of a land tenure policy must include measures to overcome these factors.
   g) Land which is designated as having agricultural potential and which is presently owned by the crown be retained by the crown until such time as a policy of land use and tenure is implemented.

10. Along with an effort to establish the cost of land to the farmer at a price which reflects the productivity of the land, it must also be recognized that the price paid for land is only a part of the ever-escalating capitalization. The cost of financing land purchases must also be controlled.

11. The whole area of financing land purchases by farmers should come under the full jurisdiction of the federal and provincial governments, with a criterion to maintain the family farm and retain farming in the hands of Canadians who should live on and work the land.

12. Toward this end, provincial and federal governments should adopt and expand the Land Bank concept with an appeal procedure and no purchase option and provide the necessary funding so the concept and principles of land without capital may be provided to those "who will till the soil."

13. Changes in public attitude towards a more beneficial system of land use and tenure will not occur solely by relying upon federal and provincial government programs. Indeed, it is not necessarily the responsibility of government to alter widely held biases.

14. The NFU recognizes that changes will occur only when people have become motivated through education and open discussion. Many Canadians are unaware of the nature of their prejudices towards land tenure and do not understand it as an issue which affects everyone and which needs to be analyzed.

15. The NFU accepts its responsibility in this regard. Therefore, we will, through an education program, communicate to Canadians at large what agriculture means to Canada and what the disposition of land means to them and future generations.

16. The NFU will continue to discuss, debate and educate itself on the whole land resource question in this country. Let it never be said we avoided our responsibilities.

17. We need to develop a sense of stewardship on the concept that we really never own land; we use it carefully while we hold it in trust for those who must use it after us.

18. Agricultural land over which farmers hold stewardship represents the source of their livelihood. Increasing investment required for food production is sometimes marred by damage to or injury to others caused by trespassing without the knowledge of farmers. Provincial governments are requested to pass legislation which will place the onus of responsibility on trespassers to seek permission to enter upon farm land thereby removing the onus from farmers to post no trespassing signs on farm land.

19. The NFU must develop a comprehensive Right to Farm policy.

20. Permits should not be issued to resource extraction companies to operate on land which First Nations have not ceded. The NFU calls on provincial governments to place a moratorium on all resource exploration and extraction on un-ceded First Nations lands until outstanding land claims are settled with the Canadian Government. The NFU urges the Canadian Government to settle outstanding First Nations land claims quickly. [Nov.'07]

21. The NFU will propose a model for an ecologically sustainable NFU-based land tenure option as a way to promote land transfers that do not rely on loans, interest payments and massive indebtedness. [Nov. '21]

22. The NFU will lobby the provincial and federal governments to provide the supports and funding interventions required to facilitate succession and farm-linking. [Nov. '22]

23. The NFU affirms its support for the Saskatchewan-based Treaty Land Sharing Network and commits to promoting the Network to its members and allies. [Nov. '22]

24. The NFU will explore and support other contextually appropriate land justice initiatives in collaboration with Indigenous peoples across the country/Turtle Island. [Nov. '22]

25. The NFU will lobby governments at all levels to establish protocols for transitioning fallow government/public-owned farm land to public/community managed food gardens, farms and food distribution outlets, as a means of making that land accessible to new and marginalized farmers. [Nov.'23]

26. The NFU calls for the free, prior and informed consent by First Nations and other Indigenous groups with legal and customary claims prior to any Crown Land sales or auctioning of Crown Land leases, for Indigenous prerogatives of first refusal to be honoured, and for Indigenous access and use rights on such lands to be guaranteed. [Nov.'23]

27. Wherever possible, the NFU will endeavour to include Indigenous sovereignties, land justice, and rematriation in our land-related communications, policy development and advocacy. [Nov.'23]

LANDOWNERS' SURFACE RIGHTS POLICY:

Basic Considerations

The NFU is most concerned with the often inconsistent and unfair consideration of food processor/landowners' surface rights by alternate users.

1. Concerns with surface rights from the food producers' perspective:
   a) Landowners are often approached by various public agencies and private companies in an inconsistent, unco-ordinated manner with respect to the taking and disruption of surface use rights.

   b) The landowner is most often faced with a taking on an infrequent basis and thus faced with an unfamiliar and complex process of negotiation, mediation, arbitration, compensation and perhaps even expropriation. The tasks involved can be an overwhelming administrative nightmare.

   b) Depending on the specific proposed public interest use, the complexity of different jurisdictions and legal procedures can seriously affect how the food producer manages his land and water resources.

2. <u>Identifying alternate users</u>:
   a) Various levels of government or those assigned authority by government through legislation, such as subsurface resource development agencies or public utility companies who gain access to surface rights for public purposes or in the public interest.

3. <u>Uses causing concern</u>:
   a) Under an overwhelming array of legislation and associated regulations, surface rights can be taken through land acquisition, lease, easement or rights-of-way for a variety of uses, including: subsurface resource extraction (petroleum, coal and minerals), highways and other access, hydro transmission lines, pipelines (water, oil, gas, sewer), telephone, railways, public facilities (airports, schools, etc.) and other uses deemed to be in the public interest. These uses seriously impact upon the food production/landowners' use of the land for food production, both through the land taking and the disruption of farm operations and management practices.

b) Illegal trespass, nuisance and vandalism also comprise significant negative "uses" in many farming communities, particularly those on the urban edge. These illegal uses are often associated with access or use provided for various public purposes within the farming community.

4. Where these uses are located:

a) Public interest uses which interfere with food producer surface rights are more common and more complex on the urban edge, although almost all Canadian farming communities and individual producers are confronted with surface rights issues at one time or another.

5. How we approach the issues:

a) Landowners and governments must jointly seek ways to understand each other's perspectives regarding surface rights. We must search for a more rational surface rights policy, both provincially and nationally, that will be consistent and fair to both landowners and the public interest.

Policy Proposals

The NFU submits the following policy recommendations based on the considerations outlined above:

1. Land Use Planning:

a) Farming community anxiety could be significantly reduced through the use of a pre-planned system of common use corridors for public utilities and subsurface resource infrastructure. This would reduce the negative impact of farmland loss and farm operation disruption.

b) Erosion, sedimentation, land and water pollution control, as well as reclamation standards, must be planned for, regulated and consistently enforced.

c) Where major surface rights disruption will occur and linear development is to take place, a public consultation process that directly involves the farming community must be a prerequisite.

d) A continuing education process involving landowners, governments and other surface users is crucial to increased understanding of the sensitive complex issues involved in surface and subsurface rights.

e) Good land and water use planning that recognizes landowner interests will help reduce future potential surface rights confrontation.

2. Procedures for taking of Surface Rights:

a) Negotiation is a time-consuming, often frustrating process for the landowner. Public utility or other surface user negotiators need to be sensitive to food producers' seasonal time pressures. Critical times, such as seeding, harvesting or calving, for example, are not times when the food producer can give priority to negotiation.

b) Consistency in landowner approach is important. Those who regularly negotiate taking of surface rights in rural communities should be licensed, after taking a recognized training program developed in consultation with food producer organizations.

c) Mediation process must be given priority by governments as the preferred means of sorting out differences between landowners and outside users.

d) The more legalistic arbitration process, common in Canada where mediation process fails, should be avoided if at all possible, or at least not involve costs to the landowner.

e) Expropriation should be considered only as a last resort in protecting the public interest. In such cases as informal pre-expropriation, inquiry should be mandatory. The five guiding principles adopted by the Law Reform Commission of Canada should form the basis of fair expropriation practice, namely:
- equality of treatment
- clarity and accessibility
- openness
- fairness, and
- political accountability

On this basis, most existing legislation warrants review.

f) It is imperative that detailed procedures be developed from the landowners' perspective for negotiation, mediation,

arbitration and expropriation. These procedures must be consistent, regardless of the outside use imposed on the farmland owner.

g) The right to compensation must include consideration of:

- value of land to the specific food production unit, which may or may not relate to actual market value;
- loss and disruption of agricultural use;
- damage to land and crops (ie., remaining field configuration, weed control, changed product transportation and machinery access);
- adverse effects (eg., nuisance, inconvenience, odours, noise, mental anguish);
- time spent by landowner in negotiating surface rights issues;
- landowner costs of legal and other professional expert advice;
- initial taking compensation plus annual compensation with established review periods and a one-time only "force-take payment" where appropriate;

h) Land value should be used as an index by which to gauge the value of lost surface rights.

i) Land value determination should be based on specific outside use/agricultural commodity/ production unit interrelationships (eg., Blackstock formula of Alberta puts a higher compensation value per acre on a small area taken on the larger area it was taken from).

j) Farmland trespass should be considered a surface rights issue and onus for responsibility should be on the trespasser not the food producer.

k) Most regulatory bodies associated with surface rights disposition do not actually have the authority to deny a specific surface use proposal because of subsurface resource tenure or other terms of reference. This should be changed so that surface rights and public interests are better protected by regulatory agencies.

l) The onus should not be on the landowner to prove environmental damage or loss of use as a result of alternate surface use. There should at least be shared responsibility for technical fact finding and failing agreement, a quasi-judicial tribunal should be available to which disputes might be referred for settlement.

m) The implications to surface rights of so-called "residual interest" warrant careful analysis. This most often involved partial taking of land, such as for pipelines, hydro transmission or telephone lines, where the landowner retains significant use rights, such as the right to farm an easement.

i) When a utility takes an easement to service a farm, the agreement must be for that one service only and any future additional construction cannot be undertaken without a new easement.

ii) In the case of underground service, the utility shall be responsible for a legal survey to be registered at Land Titles Office of the route of the service and providing the landowner with a map of the survey.

n) Options for mitigation to alleviate impact should always be researched and remain in the forefront during negotiations with landowners.

o) Pipeline companies should continue to pay one time lump sum payments plus annual fees negotiable at least every five years. [Nov. ‘09]

p) Contracts should contain abandonment clauses to protect landowners from liability. [Nov. ‘09]

q) Government agencies responsible should develop guiding principles for management of subsurface resources and associated rights as they relate to surface rights.

r) Problems with overlapping jurisdictions with respect to surface rights taking, partial taking, etc., warrant review and practical rationalization.

s) No rights of entry will be granted until all negotiations have been completed.

3. Policy Implementation Methods:

   In consideration of the above, the NFU views the following as a constructive implementation direction:

   a) Establish surface rights umbrella legislation within each province with co-ordination between provinces so that a national consistency results. This legislation and associated regulations should set the framework for a new approach to surface rights issues that is well planned, open, consistent, fair and accountable.

   b) As part of the regulatory process, independent Surface Rights Boards with farming community representation should be established to administer the legislation (taking into account the more specific proposed directions suggested above).

   c) Provincial governments shall be obliged to offer extension educational programs that will assist landowner producers to deal with negotiation, mediation, arbitration and expropriation procedures; also, to inform landowner food producers of their rights.

   d) Lack of compensation for wildlife refuges should be addressed. [Nov.'12]

4. Mineral Rights

   Legal rights of land ownership should include mineral resources. [Nov.'12]

   The NFU will call on the Alberta government to permanently and irrevocably extinguish the oil and gas industry's use of the "Right of Entry." [Nov. '20]

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE POLICY:

The NFU Sustainable Agriculture Policy below was developed over a three-year period. The process began with a draft pamphlet on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Supply created in 1994. At the 25th Annual National Convention held in Edmonton, January 10-15, 1995, referring to that draft pamphlet, delegates passed the following resolution. [Jan.'95]

BE IT RESOLVED that:

a) the NFU adopt the new policy on Sustainable Agriculture; [Jan.'95]

b) the old policies be cleared up to have all the elements of Sustainable Agriculture combined in one document; [Jan.'95]

c) the final draft document be presented to the National Board prior to becoming part of NFU policy; [Jan.'95]

In accordance with that resolution, an updated draft was presented to the National Board Meeting held in Saskatoon July 18-20, 1997. The Board, subject to one minor change, voted to adopt the draft as NFU policy. That policy is reprinted below.

Preamble

The National Farmers Union strives for a system of food production, processing, and distribution that is, in all stages, economically viable, socially just, and ecologically sound. The current system does not meet these criteria and, thus, is not sustainable. [Nov.'97]

Powerful forces act against the development of sustainable agriculture. Short-term political and economic goals; international trade liberalization; and the continuing concentration of financing, agricultural trade, and food processing; have depopulated rural areas and created urban slums worldwide. More and more people are hungry and malnourished, even in industrialized countries. We are using up our resources and damaging our forests, lakes, and rivers. Moreover, many politicians and business people think environmental protection conflicts with economic growth and profit. [Nov.'97]

Sustainable agriculture must be based on a mutual understanding between farmers and non-farmers. Farmers have an obligation to provide safe basic foods and to steward the soil, water, and air. Non-farmers, in return, must support farmers through fair prices and programs which protect farmers from loss of income and unreasonable eviction from their farms. [Nov.'97]

The governments of Canada have surrendered much control over agriculture to transnational corporations. Current government policy, in effect if not intent, is often no more than the promotion of these corporations' agendas. Unfortunately, the agendas of corporate chemical, fertilizer, processing, distribution, and retailing corporations conflict with the best interests of farmers, farm families, rural communities, as well as with those of consumers. [Nov.'97]

Farmers, farm families, local communities and regions must regain control of food production. The National Farmers Union's Policy on Sustainable *Agriculture and Food Supply will help them do so. It*

is a document of hope and optimism for the future. [Nov.'97]

How does "sustainable agriculture" differ from "organic agriculture?"

"Sustainable agriculture," as it is used by the NFU, embraces organic agriculture but also the intermediate steps in the transition from chemical-based, high synthetic-input agriculture to organic. Farmers and consumers would benefit if all agricultural production was produced by ecologically sound and sustainable means. However, the NFU recognizes that it may not be possible for all farmers to farm completely organically. [Nov.'97]

"Organic agriculture" is a relative term. Currently, it means foregoing certain practices that are environmentally damaging and pose health risks (use of chemicals, chemical fertilizers, antibiotics, and hormones) while continuing to embrace others (burning fossil fuels). More than this, however, it is a commitment to work with nature, not against it. [Nov.'97]

"Certified organic" means that the production is strictly regulated according to rules set out in the regulations of certifying agencies. "Certified organic" food has to be produced, processed, and stored according to strict regulations. [Nov.'97]

Policy Foundations

1. Economic Considerations
2. Ecological Considerations
3. Intellectual Property Rights and Genetic Engineering
4. Food Security, Safety, and Quality
5. Rural Communities
6. Marketing, Trade, and International Relations
7. Research and Education

1. Economic Considerations

a) Economics must focus on people—their happiness, health, and security. [Nov.'97]

b) Rural and urban people must co-operate to make alternative forms of agriculture viable. [Nov.'97]

c) Agricultural policies affect more than just farms and farmers. Agriculture policies must create economic stability and employment in rural areas. [Nov.'97]

d) Diversification helps farmers manage risks and, thus, must be encouraged. [Nov.'97]

e) Government should inform farmers of the benefits of land and machinery co-ops. [Nov. '97]

f) Young farm families should be allowed co-operative ownership of public lands. [Nov.'97]

g) The government could encourage co-operative ownership by allowing favourable depreciation on co-operatively-owned machinery. [Nov.'97]

2. Ecological Considerations

a) Farmers, governments, and consumers must co-operate to create viable and sustainable farming methods and technologies that improve the quality of the soil, water, and air. [Nov.'97]

b) Farmers and governments should set aside ecologically sensitive areas from any urban or agricultural development that has the potential to damage them. [Nov.'97]

c) Farmland must be protected from uses other than agriculture. Farmers must be protected from economic losses resulting from the preservation of farmland. [Nov.'97]

d) The importance of on-farm biodiversity to sustainable agriculture should be vigorously promoted. [Nov.'15]

e) Farmers and all citizens would benefit from forest belts, shelter belts, and uncultivated areas. To promote these practices, these areas should be taxed at a substantially reduced rate. [Nov.'97]

f) Erosion-prone soils should not be cultivated. Such soils could be used as woodlots, forage, or pasture. [Nov.'97]

g) Farmers use large amounts of fossil fuels. Since methane from manure, ethanol from grain, and bio-mass energy from waste-material could provide renewable energy supplies, this policy encourages research into alternative energy sources. [Nov. '97]

h) More energy-efficient farming methods, food processing techniques, and transportation systems will increase farmers' profits and reduce environmental

damage. For example, trains are 3 times more fuel-efficient than trucks. [Nov.'97]

i) The government, through tax breaks or other measures, must encourage the sale and utilization of waste heat for the establishment of greenhouses to supply the local market. [Nov.'97]

2. Intellectual Property Rights and Genetic Engineering

a) The delicate balance of life is upset when humans manipulate parts of it. [Nov.'97]

b) Citizens and their governments, not corporations, must control genetic engineering. [Nov.'97]

c) The products of genetic engineering must remain in the public domain. [Nov.'97]

d) All forms of life and components of life must remain in the public domain. The current raw material of genetic engineering seeds and domestic animals have been cultivated, bred, and improved by farmers for millennia. Changing a few lines in a book, to "make it better," does not confer copyright. Nor should altering one or two genes confer ownership of a life-form. [Nov.'97]

e) The NFU opposes the use of intellectual property such as patents to control, restrict access, or use of soil microorganism and fungi. [Nov '17]

f) Products derived, directly or indirectly, through gene manipulation, must be labelled. [Nov.'97]

h) The NFU position is that all foods and seeds produced through gene editing must be subject to government safety assessments and mandatory reporting to government. [Nov. '21]

The NFU calls on the federal government to commit to transparency and independent science in the regulation of all genetically engineered organisms for use in food and farming, including those produced through gene-editing. [Nov. '21]

3. Food and Food Processing

a) All people need safe, sufficient, and secure food supplies. This is a basic human right. [Nov.'97]

b) In order for consumers to make informed food choices, they need clear and complete label information regarding ingredients, processing, production techniques, and the presence or absence of genetically-engineered components. [Nov.'97]

c) Increasing the connections between consumers and producers will increase awareness of food production, nutrition, health, the environment and how they are all interconnected. [Nov.'97]

d) Organic agriculture and food systems produce safe and wholesome food and, thus, prevent diseases and reduce health care costs. [Nov.'97]

e) The NFU urges the federal Minister of Agriculture to quickly implement national organic standards. [Nov.'97]

f) Once national standards are established, governments should make it illegal to use the word Aorganic@ to describe food unless that food is grown in accordance with those standards. [Nov.'97]

g) Continually reducing farmers' returns will limit farmers' options and will drive agriculture away from sustainability. [Nov.'97]

h) As much as possible, food processing and consumption should be local or regional. It is in everyone's interest to localize food production and decrease transportation distances. [Nov.'97]

5. Communities

a) Policy makers must take into account, the social, economic, and ecological impacts of expanding cities and increasingly depopulated rural areas. [Nov.'97]

b) The family farm must remain the primary food- production unit in Canada. [Nov.'97]

c) Land must be owned by local citizens, preferably those who farm it. [Nov.'97]

d) Land should be held and owned in ways that promote the maximum number

of active farmers. Provisions should be made for land-banks, co-operatives, and land-trusts. [Nov.'97]

e) Research should focus on agricultural methods and technologies which promote smaller farm size with a higher degree of production efficiency. [Nov.'97]

f) Government programs can encourage more farmers and smaller farms by capping payouts and instituting regressive payment formulas on government subsidy programs. [Nov.'97]

g) Livestock operation must be limited in size to protect the environment and to assure that livestock remains an accessible and profitable diversification alternative for farmers. [Nov.'97]

h) The number of farmers in Canada has been decreasing for 50 years. It is time that farmers, consumers, and government worked together to help Canadians enter farming. [Nov.'97]

i) In order for children to take over farming from their parents, government must develop taxation and lending policies that reduce the economic risk of such transfers. [Nov. '97]

j) Women must have a greater voice and role in all levels of the food system. [Nov.'97]

k) Federal and provincial governments should immediately make available money to pay for the cost of rural daycare. [Nov.'97]

6. Marketing and International Relations

a) Every nation has the right and responsibility to independently define its own agricultural policies which are in the best interests of its farmers and consumers. [Nov.'97]

b) Every nation is entitled to formulate and enforce standards in food safety, health, nutrition, and cultural and environmental protection. [Nov.'97]

c) Nations have the right to undertake measures to improve the market position of farmers. [Nov.'97]

d) Farmers, the public, and governments must work to understand the economic, social, and ecological implications of a global trade in food and to disseminate that understanding. [Nov.'97]

e) Trade should increase the happiness, security, and wealth of individuals and protect the environment. Because the current rush toward "free trade" does not, "free trade" should be replaced by a new model which promotes these goals. [Nov.'97]

7. Education and Research

a) All government research money should go toward alternative, sustainable, organic, or chemical-alternative agriculture. Chemical agriculture research is already well-funded by large transnational chemical and fertilizer companies. [Nov.'97]

b) Pre-chemical-era agricultural practices were complex and highly refined. As the farmers expertise in those practices die, those techniques are lost. Some agricultural research funding should go to collect and preserve knowledge of how to grow plants without chemicals or fertilizers. [Nov.'97]

c) Agriculture must be studied and taught in a historic, social, and environmental context, not merely an economic one. Agriculture is closely entwined with democracy, freedom, art, literature, and urban culture. [Nov.'97]

d) Teachers and researchers must accept alternative farming methods as equal in importance to main-stream methods. This will help increase awareness of alternative, sustainable, or organic, agriculture and give farmers more options. [Nov.'97]

e) Teachers and students should focus on the practical rather than theoretical aspects of agriculture. [Nov.'97]

f) More public funding should be devoted to breeding plants and varieties which are suited for regions outside Canada's main farming areas. [Nov.'97]

g) Farmers must have increased input into research and education. On-farm research and applied research "in conjunction with

extension and educational programs" should be expanded. [Nov.'97]

h) Research findings must move more quickly to practical application. [Nov.'97]

i) For over 2000 years, food has been produced organically, and the intimate connection between food, medicine and health was widely-recognized in all societies. The NFU calls on the federal and provincial governments to reverse the current emphasis on high-input chemical production methods, and to encourage more natural, organic agriculture. [Nov.'05]

Actions

1. The NFU should take on the national leadership to: [Jan.'95]

   a) co-ordinate the efforts to develop alternatives to conventional methods of farming; [Jan. '95]

   b) assist farmers to establish alternative marketing tools and structures with the interests of primary producers and consumers in mind; [Jan. '95]

   c) promote and work towards research and education programs for alternative farming and marketing methods; [Jan. '95]

   d) pressure the Minister of Agriculture to put high priority on the establishment of national certification standards for organic products; [Jan. '95]

   e) collaborate with Ecological Agricultural Projects and any other interested organizations to develop a project proposal to provide information on sustainable agricultural practices to NFU members and other interested farmers by applying for funding from the Provincial Rural and Agricultural Adaptation Councils; and [Dec.'96]

   f) lobby the federal and provincial governments to establish a Green Cover Program to help Canadian farmers overcome environmental extremes and improve the sustainability of livestock farms. [Nov.'15]

   g) where members determine that their respective provincial agricultural policies and regulations governing Intensive Livestock Operations inadequately address environmental concerns, including water and air pollution, the NFU shall lobby those governments to take effective and immediate action to change and remedy existing regulations to protect both the physical and economic environment for future generations of farm families and rural communities. [Dec.'96]

   h) The protection of the quality of land, air, water, wildlife habitat and other conservation measures are in the public interest. The NFU supports, in principle, the concept of tax incentives, payments, or other positive measures that would encourage farmers to participate in conservation measures to protect and enhance land, air and water quality, as well as preservation of wildlife habitat and other conservation measures.

   These programs should fully compensate farmers for any loss of farm income resulting from participation in these conservation programs. Further, the National Board shall initiate a process to develop a detailed discussion paper on this issue to be presented on or before the next convention. [Dec. '98]

   i) To facilitate the preceding, the NFU shall lobby the federal and provincial governments to create and fund a Canadian Centre for Sustainable Agriculture. [Nov.'99]

   j) Our governments are spending a large amount of taxpayers' money on the promotion of chemical agriculture, and only a mere fraction of the budget on organic agriculture. The U.S. government is planning to spend millions to support farmers in their transition to organic agriculture, with a $50,000 cap per farm. Therefore, the NFU will work to ensure that our governments spend the equivalent of what the U.S. government is spending on their support programs for transition to organic agriculture.[Nov.'00]

2. Spray drift of agricultural chemicals can cause serious environmental and crop damage. The NFU urges provincial and federal governments to make agricultural chemical applicators liable for damages attributable to chemical spray drift. [Nov.'08]

Concepts for a Soil Conservation Policy

Soil is an important resource for the production of food. Soil is a living medium from which plants obtain their nutrients. It is of utmost importance that the soil be well cared for.

In all regions of Canada, soil degradation has developed into a major national concern. The causes of soil degradation are varied. The effects of wind erosion on the prairies where large areas of land are left unprotected, to effects of water erosion in Ontario and the Maritimes are just two examples of soil degradation problems.

The NFU recognizes that farming methods must be encouraged to stop the damaging effects of soil degradation that is reducing our capacity to produce food.
The NFU believes that co-operation between all levels of government and farmers is required to develop programs to reduce soil degradation.

The NFU specifically recommends that a Canadian Soil Conservation Authority be established under the authority of the Minister of Environment Canada.

1. Is funded by the Canadian and provincial governments;
2. Would develop soil conservation programs that are specific to the respective causes of soil degradation;
3. Would encourage farmers through education to participate in soil degradation control methods;
4. Would provide adequate funds to farmers to practice soil conservation;
5. That all existing federal and provincial soil conservation programs be co-ordinated under the C.S.C.A.;
6. That the program be extended to our education system beginning at the primary level;
7. That governments correct erosion caused by public waters at their expense;
8. That submarginal farmland be taken out of grain production under a federal soil conservation program and that farmers be adequately funded to retain such land under the conservation program.

9. A minimum of 20% of the land each landowner owns should be forest and any farm that is clearing land shall maintain at least 20% as wetlands, grasslands, or forest. [Nov.'95]

FARM CREDIT POLICY

1. Credit is an essential need in farm production and planning. The many varied farm credit programs and prevailing high interest rates do not serve the needs and best interests of farmers and the nation in the development of a co-ordinated approach to food production and the establishment of a secure farming industry.

2. As a result of the instability of farm income, farmers continually run the risk of being in the position where they may not be able to meet their credit obligations.

3. It is, therefore, necessary to consider the long-term implications of the potential effect of credit on the transfer of production unit ownership or control from farmers to either lending institutions or the agri-business sector.

4. We oppose the concept of using venture capital for funding agriculture.

5. We recommend that:

    a) In order to minimize the risk of ownership transfer, it is desirable that farm credit be sourced from the public sector through an agency such as a National Farm Credit Authority which is capable of implementing priorities as negotiated with the NFU and rationalizing the purposes and objectives of the public and private farm credit programs;

    b) Interest rates be reduced by national subsidy if necessary, on farm credit programs of highest priority, as in the extension of credit to beginning farmersand that such rates not rise above 6%.

6. The NFU supports the maintenance of the Farm Improvement Loans Program and urges the federal government to reduce its interest rates.

7. We request governments at all levels to present all alternatives for resolving the farm debt crisis including debt write-down and land bank systems. Current high interest rate policies of the federal government are proving to be extremely destructive to the productive efforts of farmers and are inflationary. We call upon the federal government to implement thefollowing policies:

    a) Declaration of a short-term debt moratorium:

        i) On capital debt related to net income;

        ii) On approval of application by board of entitlement;

    b) Long-term low interest rates on operating capital for selected groups with low income;

        i) Publicly subsidized;

        ii) Based on sliding scales related to income;

    c) Legislation be implemented to reverse current banking policy periodic upward renegotiation of interest rates on essential operating and capital debts;

    d) The Bank Act be amended to erase the term "On Demand" from all lending transactions;

    e) That the federal government investigate bank overcharges and the interest policies of banks and demand repayments of excessive charges without the need for borrowers to file applications for rebates. In the event banks fail to rectify interest overcharges, the federal government should order a full judicial investigation into illegal banking practices.

    f) That the grace period following notice of bankruptcy being served be extended from eleven to one hundred twenty days;

    g) Place an embargo on capital leaving Canada.

8. We call upon the federal government to maintain and strengthen the F.C.C. and:

    a) Create the F.C.C. as a non-profitinstrument for development and maintenance of family farms;

    b) Publicly fund and secure the F.C.C. through the federal treasury;

    c) Authorize the F.C.C. to renegotiate interest rates on farm loans and that they be adjusted to equal the percentage returns to farm equity;

    d) Place a moratorium on F.C.C. farm foreclosures until such time as legislation is in place allowing for debt adjustment and independent mediation between farmers and creditors, and implementing such policies as write-downs on capital cost and purchase lease-back programs, as well as having the

F.C.C. mandate of "compromises and rearrangements" activated "across the board";

e) Affix fixed rates of interest to all farm operating and Farm Improvement Loans;

f) Permit the F.C.C. to institute a Land Bank with land it now holds or may acquire;

g) Refrain from implementing the F.C.C.policy initiative of using equity financingand tax credits to solve Canadian farmers' financial difficulties.

9. In the face of the current financial crisis confronting farmers, it is essential that the federal government:

a) Immediately translate into legislation the contents of Bill C-653 calling for amendments to the Farmers' Creditors Arrangements Act;

b) Recognize the need for pursuing a legislative process to assure retention of farm families on their land as efficient producers;

c) Strengthen the Farm Debt Review Board functions and responsibilities to implement a mechanism to provide fair, equitable and binding solutions for both farmers and lenders and injected with the intent to keep farmers on their farms and a judicial authority to entrench decisions. [Jan. '95]

d) Farmers exercising their "right of first refusal" have a right to know who they are bidding against. The government must include in legislation that all bids for farm land involving "right of first refusal" be on a quarter-by-quarter basis, and that all bidders be clearly identified.

10. Since the federal government has announced that it will replace the Farm Debt Review Act, the NFU calls on the federal government to establish a replacement program which is fully funded, offers complete peer counselling, provides a 120-day Stay of Proceedings, and provides mediation and binding arbitration services as good as those provided by the Farm Debt Review Boards. [Nov. '95]

11. The powers of the Farm Debt Review Boards have been seriously eroded. Many farm families caught in the farm income crisis are currently approaching the FDRBs for mediation. Therefore, the NFU will urge the federal government to empower the FDRBs to truly mediate between the farm family and its creditors. [Dec.'98]

12. We recommend the nationalization of all lending institutions.

13. We call upon the federal government to redraft the Bank Act to allow opportunities for the borrower to achieve an avenue of equitable and fair settlement.

14. In lieu of deferred income taxes that lending institutions presently owe the Government of Canada, we demand the transfer of any farm land they may have foreclosed upon be transferred to a Crown Corporation to be treated as lease land and where possible, leased back to the previous owner on a long-term lease (minimum 10 years).

15. Many small and medium-sized family farms are already facing foreclosure. The NFU will urge the federal government to enforce a 24-month moratorium on all farm foreclosures and all provincial governments to enforce a similar moratorium on foreclosures originating in provincial lending agencies. [Dec.'98]

16. Farm families facing bankruptcy should be able to keep their principle residence as exempt under the federal Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act. [Nov.'13]

BEGINNING FARMERS POLICY

1. The cheap food policy of the present government encourages low returns on investment and a high outlay of capital to obtain a land base, equipment and inputs.

2. High interest rates are discouraging or making it impossible for beginning farmers to become established.

3. The present education system also seriously ignores the importance of agriculture for the economic viability of Canada. The NFU should assume greater responsibility in educating youth through such means as:

a) Organization of debates on policy issues;

b) Local discussions and workshops;

c) Fostering the concepts of co-operative farming and the principles of co-operation as a means toward reducing farm costs of production.

ORDERLY MARKETING AND FARM PRICE STABILIZATION

1. The current food policy practised by the policymakers of our country has resulted in cheap food at the farm gate and generated the present instability in food production and uncertainty among farmers as to the future. For these reasons, we promote the principles of national food security for consumers and economic security for producers and processors including:

   i) Canadian producers must be given priority as suppliers of the domestic market;

   ii) Commodity pricing must include cost of production with a fair return to investment management and labour;

   iii) The federal government must maintain adequate border controls to support these principles.

2. Canadian consumers over the years have been provided with cheap food at the expense of bankruptcy and disillusionment of thousands of farmers each year.

3. Because of the pressure of an expanding world population on food supplies, and cyclical production patterns due to climate conditions around the world, prices can be expected to fluctuate violently from one cycle to the next.

4. The federal government's Agri-Food Strategy stresses increased industrialization of food production for the purposes of enhancing the trade balance. We must stress to the federal government the projected food production targets will only be attained if farmers are adequately rewarded by farm prices through marketing programs and such programs have a quantity limit for each family farm unit on which guaranteed prices would be paid.

5. Failure to reach this objective has resulted in many family farm units being forced to supplement farm income with off-farm employment, or alternately, get out of farming either by selling out or through bankruptcy.

6. A marketing system must include supply management in order to prevent excessive inventory build-up while ensuring adequate supply to meet domestic needs as well as export opportunities. The NFU believes that the so-called "market place", subject as it is to manipulation of price by speculators, corporations, both national and international, and its vulnerability to political influence of governments, not only in this country, but by governments of other countries through their trade policies, import controls, tariffs, manipulation of exchange rates, credit arrangements, etc., must be rejected as a regulator of food production and distribution.

7. The private agri-business community must be brought under strict public regulation to ensure that their activities become complementary to public purpose. Future trading and speculation in food commodities must be eliminated and regulations must be enforced to discourage the vertically integrated production of all food produced in Canada. The federal government must commit itself to the maintenance of the family farm structure as the cornerstone of our food production industry leading toward the attainment of greater self-sufficiency in food production.

8. Corporate concentration in Canada is steadily increasing. As of November, 2003, Cargill and Tyson control 74% of Canadian beef slaughter capacity, Loblaws and Sobey's control the majority of food retail outlets in Ontario, and three processors handle 71% of Canada's milk. Similar levels of concentration exist on the farm input side. This concentration leaves few options for family farmers. The NFU, therefore, pledges to conduct research into corporate concentration, and calls on the Canadian Government to protect family farmers through effective changes to the federal Competitions Act. [Nov.'03]

9. Declining farm income levels and increasing debt burdens have accelerated the exodus of farming families, particularly rural youth, off the land. Services in rural centres have likewise declined as a result, further eroding the viability of communities. The NFU calls on the Government of Canada, and the provincial governments, to re-focus agricultural policies so that increasing farm income is the primary objective. This in turn will stimulate economic growth in rural areas and encourage an increase in the number of farm families contributing to the economy and the community. [Nov.'03]

10. Much of the present confusion on the subject of farm production and marketing in this country stems from the contradictions between federal policies and programs, and the policies and programs of the various provincial governments.

11. Provincial governments, through legislation, must transfer power over "intra" and "inter" provincial trade of each farm-produced commodity to the federal jurisdiction.

12. The federal government legislation must permit the establishment of national marketing structures for all farm-produced commodities and must have the following powers:

    a) Control of the product into, through and out of the marketing system to meet market demand;

    b) Single-desk selling;

    c) Equality of delivery opportunity between producers;

    d) Pooling of returns and costs among producers;

    e) Elimination of manipulation, speculation and waste.

13. The federal government should appoint commissioners to administer each of the marketing structures. These marketing structures would be responsible to the federal government. The criteria for selecting commissioners would be based on their marketing expertise in the particular kind of commodity affected. They need not be producers of that commodity or of any other farm commodity. (As is the case currently with the Canadian Wheat Board.)

14. a) A simple majority vote should be required to change the marketing powers of any commodity marketing board for any commodity. [Nov.'97]

    b) Ministerial and/or Cabinet powers to revoke single-desk marketing authority should be removed from all marketing legislation. [Nov.'97]

15. Farmers should join together into one effective nation-wide farm organization, effective in the sense that it would have the discipline and potential to apply measures and techniques to the extent that would render government(s) policy sensitive to its demands. The organization should be structured in a manner that would enable it to be sensitive to the needs of all producers and of all commodities regardless of where they live in Canada.

16. The National Farmers Union is so structured and has the potential to be the one effective farm organization.

17. The National Farmers Union would appoint a committee for each kind of farm-produced commodity, with responsibility to negotiate with the federally-appointed marketing structure the terms and conditions under which that commodity would be produced and marketed. Members of the negotiating committee need not be producers of that commodity. The committee would be appointed by and responsible to the Executive of the National Farmers Union as provided for under Section 115 of the NFU Constitution.

18. The national marketing structures shall determine the export price of those commodities affected at such a level as to allow them to move into the export market, and shall administer an income stabilization plan based on maintenance of realized net income for each farmer producing such commodities.

19. A formula indexing all the major cost components is required to establish an adequate income stabilization plan.

20. Stabilization programs should be funded from contributions by both federal and provincial governments and producers.

21. When the market price for a commodity rises above the cost of production, producers would contribute to the fund. Federal and provincial governments would match producer contributions.

22. When the market price falls below the cost of production, producers would draw out of the fund the difference between the market price and the formula price.

23. In the event that the fund should become depleted, federal and provincial governments would share in either interest-free loans, or outright grants to the fund.

24. Acceptance of price stabilization programs for farm products which assure producers the full cost of production including a return to labour and investment cannot be considered in isolation of supply management.

25. National policy would have to dictate overall production targets, and market sharing agreements between provinces would need to be negotiated.

26. Stabilization programs should be designed to support a maximum number of efficient production units. There would need to be limits established on the scale of production for which any one producer would qualify for income support. Under no circumstances would income support quotas be negotiable.

27. National production targets, market sharing between provinces and between producers, cost-of-production indexes and indexing formulae would all be natural areas for collective bargaining between the National Farmers Union and federal and provincial governments.

28. We request the Minister of Agriculture to review the operation of the National Farm Products Marketing Council to ensure its operation adequately fulfils its mandate to assist and encourage farmers to effectively operate their marketing plans and ensure farmers' interests are taken into account in facilitating, supervising, and encouraging the development of marketing plans. We strongly oppose the appointment of anyone to farm marketing boards who is not an actual producer of the commodity involved.

29. We strongly oppose the concept of check-offs from farm products being used for purposes of promotion, research and market development and intended as a means of frustrating the establishment of meaningful and effective orderly marketing structures. In this regard, we strongly oppose the promotion and funding by Agriculture Canada of small commodity groups as recently recommended by the Agriculture Canada Policy Branch.

30. While we strongly oppose capitalization of production quotas under supply-managed programs, we recognize that many producers have been required to purchase production rights for such products and have incurred heavy debt as a result. Many now may suffer heavy financial loss as a result of the Free Trade Agreement. This circumstance must require the federal government to establish a compensation fund to assist in the recovery of any such losses.

31. While the NFU strongly supports supply management, it is understood that the price of broiler quota and the minimum purchase are not affordable for family farms wishing to diversify with a few hundred or a few thousand chickens over the course of a year. Most broilers produced under quota with the Chicken Marketing Board are a uniform type of bird produced for specific mass markets. Many consumers are requesting a different type of chicken not available under the current quota regulations. The NFU should pressure Chicken Marketing Boards and governments to provide quota for specific types of birds to farmers who want to diversify their operations and direct-market to consumers. These quotas would range from a few hundred to a few thousand birds, and be for seasonal birds, birds with access to outdoors, organic birds, rare breeds, etc. [Nov.'03]

32. A large and growing market is developing for free-range and/or certified-organic chicken that is produced in small flocks. While acknowledging that the high cost of quota represents a hurdle for small-flock producers, particularly young farmers, the orderly marketing system offers the best opportunity for secure financial returns for farmers. The NFU advocates an orderly marketing system for poultry that is designed to meet the needs of all farmers, including small-flock producers. The NFU shall assist with a public education campaign aimed at instituting accepted standards for a small-flock producer label. [Nov.'08]

33. The NFU shall work with supply-management marketing boards to implement small but meaningful quota exemptions for family farms which market their produce locally. [Nov.'08]

34. The NFU will research the supply chain of Canadian supermarkets and call on supermarket owners to pay prices that allow their suppliers to maintain safe and equitable working conditions for all farmers and workers. [Nov. '19]

35. In order to safeguard the interests and rights of producers, the NFU will urge the Alberta Federation of Agriculture (AFA), Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP), National Farmers' Union (NFU), and SaskWheat to help jointly organize a Canada Grain Act Summit of concerned organizations to review common CGA policy objectives and to develop and endorse common CGA policy recommendations that maintain the effectiveness and integrity of both the Canada Grain Act and the Canadian Grain Commission to act in the interests of producers. The common CGA policy recommendations from the Summit will be communicated to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the three CGC Commissioners with the request for

a follow-up meeting on an urgent basis. [Nov.'23]

TRANSPORTATION

1. The movement of goods and people determines to a large extent the location and nature of communities and dictates location and concentration of industrial growth and patterns of resource development.

2. Modes of transportation include waterways, railways, highways, pipelines and airlines. The location and use of transport facilities should complement one another in a manner that will ensure rational development of all regions of the country, the best use of energy, capital investment in facilities, and human resources employed in the transportation industry. The NFU supports the expansion of inter-city and community public transit, such as Via Rail, across the country, and regional public transit systems such as Go Transit. [Nov. '09]

3. All forms of transportation should be designed and operated on the principle of providing needed services in the movement of goods and people and not to fill the pocketbooks of shareholders of private companies.

4. In Canada we have a mix of public and private ownership and management of transportation facilities which leaves us with the worst of two worlds.

5. In cases where there is public ownership, there is also private intervention and competition which largely negates any benefits that may be derived from public ownership.

6. In cases where there is private ownership, public assistance is provided to subsidize the operation, which distorts any attempts to evaluate or compare the alternatives.

7. The end result of this mix leads to wasteful duplication of service and facilities, misallocation of resources and in many instances inferior service. It can be said that the people of this country serve the needs of those supplying transport rather than the providers of transport serving the people.

8. It is documented that rail transport is from four to six times more efficient in the use of energy than truck transport and ten times more efficient than air transport.

9. Yet we are continually diverting more and more of the movement of goods and people onto our already crowded highways.

10. To correct the overall situation, we recommend that all forms of transportation as outlined in Section 2 be nationalized in order to make transportation an effective instrument of National Policy in the rational development of our country.

10.1 The NFU will lobby for government reinvestment in regional public transit. [Nov. '18]

10.2 The NFU will seek opportunities to encourage new Crown, co-operative, and Indigenous organization partnerships to share in promoting, funding, and operating appropriate and innovative regional and interprovincial bus services. [Nov. '18]

10.3 The NFU will formally request direct action by the Province of Ontario and Federal Government of Canada to immediately contribute action and finances to restore the International ferry service at Sombra, Ontario which is vital rural infrastructure. [Nov. '18]

11. The NFU will lobby the national and provincial/territorial governments for the construction and renovation of public transportation systems to move people and goods, particularly agricultural labour and produce, with emphasis on rail based systems powered by renewable energy. [Nov.'23]

12. The NFU will publicly state that commercial aviation driven by combustion of any sustainable aviation fuel (SAF or conventional) is unsustainable. [Nov. '24]

13. The NFU will lobby all government departments to increase pollution pricing on aviation fuels to reflect the social cost of its dangerous pollution and constrain growth in the sector. [Nov. '24]

14. The NFU will advocate for alternative (low emission) public transportation and public

high-speed data connectivity in rural and remote areas to displace the demand for commercial air travel. [Nov. ‘24]

15. The NFU will lobby all government departments to include all direct and indirect emissions related to the production of sustainable aviation fuel (including land use change emissions) in any calculations of lifecycle carbon intensity. [Nov. ‘24]

Policy on Rail Transportation

11. Rail transportation being vital to the maintenance of Canada as a nation, should be publicly-owned and operated. CP Ltd. should be expropriated by the Government of Canada and its rail operations merged with the CNR under single management. Toward this end, the federal government should immediately conduct an investigative enquiry into the corporate operations of CP Ltd. using full judicial powers and terms of reference which will expose CP Ltd.'s total cost accounting and financial practices in the operation and expansion of its corporate interests in general and CP in particular.

12. The NFU shall pressure the federal government to sell the Western Canada portion of the CNR, including the line to Churchill, for $1 to the farmers of Western Canada. [Nov. '95]

13. Rail facilities must be maintained to adequately service all regions of the country. Motive power and rolling stock must be not only maintained but upgraded and expanded to a level which will meet transportation requirements both as to kind and quantity.

14. In the interests of energy conservation, land preservation, ecological soundness, and cost efficiency, Canada's transportation system should be deliberately designed and upgraded to place emphasis on rail movement of cargo and people in contrast to the trend toward increasing highway transport. As an encouragement toward greater railway utilization, provincial governments should remove taxes from locomotive fuels and assess selective taxes on fuel used in CNR and CPR trucks and all other commercial trucks.

15. Rail rates should be adjusted in a manner that will allow all regions of Canada to develop on an equal basis in respect to transportation costs.

16. a) The statutory Crow's Nest rates on western grain must be restored by the federal government and be proportionately extended to all other agricultural products. Revenue shortfalls of the railway companies resulting from the movement of such products should be offset by the railway companies from internal revenue. However, should the federal government decide to subsidize transportation, subsidies should be in the form of hopper cars or branchline rehabilitation and rail equipment and take the form of equity.

    b) In the interim, the payment of the Crow Benefit must be restored to $750 million and must continue to be made directly to the railways. The Crow Benefit transportation subsidy should be extended to rail transportation of all agricultural bulk commodities, raw and processed, whether for export on domestic markets. The Crow Benefit should be used by the railways to upgrade branch lines.

    c) In the interim, the Western Grain Transportation Act should be retained to govern grain transportation, which has the following features of:

        i) a mechanism for producer representation;

        ii) third-party car allocation;

        iii) cost-based, distance-related maximum tariffs;

        iv) pay-the-railroad method of payment at full WGTA legislated levels. [Jan.'95]

    d) We oppose the federal government’s desire to see grain transportation governed by the National Transportation Act, the Grain Transportation Agency eliminated and grain freight rates deregulated in five years. [Jan.’95]

17. Because the Crow transition payment is intended to cover the extra costs of moving grain to export and because the FCC will receive money under this program, the government should direct the FCC to pay the total transition payment to its renters at a rate of 20% per year for five years. [Dec.'96]

18. The Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture is considering suing the federal government for terminating the statutory Crow Rate. The Crow Rate was to be for "perpetuity" and was one-half of an agreement wherein the railroads received huge quantities of land and minerals. Because the NFU fought long and hard to keep the Crow Rate, the NFU supports the Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture in this very important action. [Nov.'99]

19. a) Because the CTA is less shipper-friendly than the NTA '87 which it replaces, and because shippers need regulatory tools to mitigate the power of the railway monopoly, the NFU demands that the federal government extend Final Offer Arbitration provisions to all matters between shortlines and mainline carriers in the CTA. [Nov. '95]

    b) The NFU demands that the federal government institute common running rights provisions. [Nov. '95]

    c) The NFU demands that there be no "captivity test" before shippers can access rate-relief. [Nov.'95]

20. The "At and East" rates to the Maritimes must remain. The cost of movement of goods over the "bridge" from Sudbury to Thunder Bay should be borne by the federal government.

21. a) The NFU opposes the passage of Bill C-101, the Canadian Transportation Act. [Nov. '95]

    b) The federal government should allow a minimum one-year period for farmers to organize a producer-controlled discussion process to study the impact of C-101 and to recommend changes to C-101. [Nov.'95]

22. A rail link should be built from Ashcroft to Clinton, connecting the CNR to the B.C. Railroad providing an alternative to the Fraser Canyon route to Vancouver. Direct linkages to the west coast from the Peace River Bloc of Alberta and service to Valleyview and other points as recommended by the Hall Commission are essential.

23. The federal government is called upon to initiate a Royal Commission of Inquiry to study rates and requirements of rail transportation for the Maritime Region, with specific regard for their effect on primary production, and regional economic and social development. An upgrading of the road and rail system within the Maritime provinces and the ferry link between P.E.I. and the mainland is needed. Rail cars to move perishable products are badly required. Investigation and action needs to be taken to resolve the railways' failure to provide adequate transport for fruits and vegetables.

24. a) We reaffirm our support for the establishment of the Prairie Rail Authority as recommended by the Hall Commission and placing under its jurisdiction all prairie rail lines examined for possible abandonment by the Prairie Rail Action Committee;

    b) We do not support proposals which will lead toward further privatization of branch rail lines through the concept of short-line railway companies.

    c) Because railways are working hand in glove with grain traders to justify abandonment of both elevators and rail lines, the NFU will encourage and offer support for farmers who wish to set up producer car loading facilities. [Dec.'98]

25. The NFU will act to encourage local municipal governments to involve themselves in shortline initiatives in their areas through: development of the initial plan, provision of capital purchase revenue through the mill rate, and formation of a co-operative of all rate payers to own and oversee its operations. [Dec.'98]

26. a) The NFU supports having the cost base reflect the full rail network, including that served by short lines. [Nov. '95]

    b) Increases in the cost-base should go to fund shortline railroads. [Nov. '95]

27. The railway companies should be compelled by Parliament and/or the CTC to provide the necessary railway equipment and facilities to meet Canada's expanding grain transportation needs. In this regard, we demand the federal government assure that top priority be given to the manufacture of rail cars needed for the movement of Canadian grain and require the railway companies to fund all grain hopper cars required to meet export and domestic needs including those ordered and/or purchased by the Canadian Wheat Board with producer funds.

28. The allocation of rail cars for the transport of grains and oilseeds should be returned to the control of the C.W.B. and that truck hauling should not replace rail hauling of grain and oilseeds. There should be a strict criterion for allocation of cars based on a percentage of each grain marketed.

29. The NFU shall urge the federal government to retain CWB responsibility for managing the efficient movement of grain through directional train-run programs. [Nov. '95]

30. Farmers should be free of responsibility for demurrage charges incurred beyond the farmers' delivery point. [Jan.'95]

31. The railways performed poorly during the winter of 1996-97. This cost farmers money in the form of demurrage. Therefore, the NFU should make a representation to the CTA that demurrage charges be the responsibility of grain carriers. [Nov.'97]

32. We urge the federal government to intervene in the imposition by Marathon Realty of unjustified lease rental rates on elevator companies located on CPR branch lines.

33. We recommend the construction of an Arctic rail line as an alternative to the proposed Mackenzie Valley and Alcan pipelines for the transportation of petroleum products.

34. We urge federal and provincial governments to require transportation of hazardous materials by rail whenever possible and request the Department of Transport to require all railway rolling stock to be marked with highly reflective material to protect motorists when approaching railway crossings at night.

35. All brush on railway property affecting lines of sight at public crossings should be cleared to a minimum of 750 m. [Nov.'15]

36. We request the railway companies be compelled to uphold Section 262 of the Railway Act, not only in regard to the movement of grain but that they be compelled to provide adequate equipment and provide service for the proper transportation of livestock.

37. The NFU Board of Directors is requested to initiate an educational program consisting of seminars, workshops and printed literature to educate the public of the benefits created by nationalizing Canada's railways. Such a program should include information on all public benefits received by CP Ltd. and work toward repeal of Bill C-155.

38. We go on record opposing the deregulation of freight rates as introduced in Bill C-18, amendments to the National Transportation Act.

39. The NFU shall work to have Section 4 of Bill C-75 dealing with cost recovery proposals removed from proposed amendments to the Canada Shipping Act.

40. We oppose the wholesale abandonment of rail branch lines becoming increasingly likely under the eased restrictions of the National Transportation Act. We strongly object to the federal government's disregard of farmers and their commitment to them.

41. The destruction of grain handling facilities and the abandonment and destruction of the railroad branch lines are having very detrimental effects on farmers and rural communities. The NFU demands a moratorium on destruction of grain handling facilities and the abandonment of railroad branch lines. During the period of the

moratorium, the NFU will work with other interested parties to develop a handling, transportation and marketing system for grain that:

(a) has as its primary goal, serving the needs of farmers and their communities;
(b) is environmentally and socially sustainable;
(c) is least cost, taking into account all costs to all participants.

[Dec.'98]

42. a) The NFU shall urge the federal government to extend Final Offer Arbitration provisions to all matters between short lines and main carriers. [Nov.'95]

b) The NFU requests that the federal government include a provision in the CTA to force railways to sell branch lines slated for abandonment to any party who offers a minimum of the salvage costs. [Nov.'95]

c) The NFU shall urge the federal government to include a provision in the CTA to disallow branch line demarketing. [Nov. '95]

d) The NFU demands that the federal government include provisions to allow affected communities to have real input in branch line abandonment decisions. [Nov. '95]

43. The NFU should explore the merits of a proposal for legislated common rail bed user policy for Canadian companies on CN and CP lines. [Jan.'95]

44. The NFU shall actively promote public ownership and management of all rail roadbeds.

45. We urge that railway companies be required to retain a caboose and crew on all trains to assure their safe and efficient operation.

46. We urge the federal Ministers of Transport and the Environment to support and promote the use of rail transport over truck transport.

47. Under the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act the Federal Government should provide a full public disclosure of CNR's foreign investments and that the company mandate be specifically directed to serve the needs of Canadian taxpayers.

48. The move to more truck transport and less rail is often made with the argument that rail transportation of agricultural commodities is not feasible. The NFU disputes this claim, and request the provincial and federal government to provide information, or to do studies, on highway versus rail transportation to compare: land use; construction and maintenance costs; labour costs per tonne mile; energy use and costs per tonne mile; and environmental impacts.

49. Transport of hazardous goods can cause significant damage to farm families and the environment. The NFU calls on the federal government to establish criterion for compensation to farm families damaged by the accidental introduction of hazardous goods.

50. The federal government should ensure that all eligible farmers receive Feed Freight Assistance. [Jan. '95]

51. Maritime Freight Rate and Feed Freight Assistance Adjustment Fund payments should be paid directly to eligible farmers. [Dec.'96]

52. Hopper car allocation shall be done by an objective third party to achieve fairness, coherence, and efficiency in the system. [Nov. '95]

53. Producers should retain ownership of the current fleet of government hopper cars. [Nov. '95]

54. Due to the poor performance of the railways during the winter of 1996-97, the NFU rejects the freight rate increase granted to the railways on April 25, 1997 to cover increased costs to the railways for labour, fuel, material and capital. [Nov.'97]

55. Because there is renewed interest in the use of producer cars and because farmers face the threat of increased charges for the use of such cars, the NFU shall review its policy

on producer cars with the aim to expand and continue their use. [Dec.'98]

56. In addition to an adequate branch line network, railway sidings are vital to farmers, especially those who load producer cars. For this reason, the NFU demands that: [Nov.'00]

    a) The CTA be amended to include provisions that require railways to sell sidings to the federal government for salvage value; and that [Nov.'00]

    b) The CTA be amended to disallow the closure of sidings at the railways sole discretion. [Nov. '09]

    c) The CTA establish a process whereby farmers and others can obtain permits to build sidings along railway lines. [Nov.'00]

57. For many years, farmers have used their right to load producer cars. Farmers are developing more sophisticated methods of loading, blending, and administering producer cars—working with communities, organizations, and the CWB. Undermining farmers' actions, the CGC may require producer car loading sites to become licensed and bonded as primary elevators. Therefore, the NFU will urge the CGC to not require licensing and bonding of producer car loading sites. [Nov.'01]

58. The NFU calls upon the Canadian Transportation Agency to re-regulate the rail system with the objective of creating a system that ensures farmers have timely and adequate rail service in all areas of Canada, including the Peace River country of northern Alberta and B.C. [Dec.'98] [Nov.'07]

59. The former Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA) legislation had a mechanism to measure the railways' actual costs every four years for the purpose of adjusting freight rates downward to reflect cost savings resulting from technological advancement and increased productivity. The current Canadian Transportation Act (CTA) has not retained a mechanism for decreasing rates as a result of productivity gains. 1998 freight rates are calculated to be $144 million higher than they would be had productivity-gain sharing continued after 1992. Therefore, the NFU will urge the federal government to immediately reinstate costing reviews and productivity-gain sharing in regulated grain freight rates. [Dec.' 98]

60. In 1999, two separate reviews revealed that railways are overcharging farmers at least $5 per tonne. The federal government must act immediately to require railways to rebate farmers through the Canadian Wheat Board pool accounts the accumulated overcharge since 1992. [Nov.'99]

61. The federal government must reject transportation deregulation policies based on the principles and philosophies embodied in the recommendations of Willard Estey and Arthur Kroeger. Instead it must develop grain transportation legislation that: [Nov.'99]

    a) places farmers' and communities' well-being first; [Nov.'99]

    b) takes all costs into account including road costs; [Nov.'99]

    c) includes a farmer vote for ratification; and [Nov.'99]

    d) reduces CO_2 emissions in line with Canada's commitments under the Kyoto Agreement. [Nov.'99]

62. Because the destruction of the grain handling and transportation system is occurring at a phenomenal pace due to deregulation and ill-thought out legislation, the NFU calls for an end to the destruction of railway sidings, branch lines and grain elevators. The NFU further requests that the mechanism of a proposed Prairie Rail Authority (PRA) be used to control infrastructure to the benefit of family farms and farm families. [Nov.'00]

63. The National Farmers Union will work with The Prairie Alliance for the Future in order to develop and pursue ownership and control over branch lines and a community-based grain handling system within the context of the emerging market economy. [Nov.'00]

64. The NFU supports the concept of the "Prairie Alliance for the Future" project designed to create a vertically-integrated regional rail branch line and co-operative grain handling system. (This resolution shall

be sent immediately to the federal and provincial governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.) [Nov.'01]

65. The NFU supports the development of community-based, cooperatively-owned and operated grain handling and delivery systems. These facilities should be integrated into cooperatively-operated regional rail branch line system. [Nov.'03]

66. The NFU urges the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) to open an office in western Canada which will: [Nov.'08]

    a) closely monitor the railway revenue cap;

    b) quickly respond to rail service issues in the grain sector;

    c) collect data and analyze railway costing and efficiency sharing practices;

    d) respond quickly to other rail service issue as they arise. [Nov.'08]

67. The roles of the Transportation Safety Board and Transport Canada should be strengthened with a view to resuming their roles as hands-on regulators of Canada's rail system. [Nov.'13]

68. The NFU should help foster a broad coalition of farm groups on grain handling and transportation based on the presentation of Ian McCreary at the March 26, 2014 Grain Summit in Saskatoon. [Nov.'14]

69. The NFU will support the federal government in retention on the MRE (maximum revenue entitlement) provisions of the Canadian Transportation Act.

70. The NFU will request the federal government disclose and justify by direct means and by way of an open letter, the process by which they "sold" the federal government hopper cars to the railway below salvage cost as was reported in farm media. [Nov. '19]

Ports [Dec.'96]

1. The Port of Churchill must have its potential as an export port increased by

    a) having port facilities upgraded and expanded as well as upgrading the rail line serving Churchill.

    b) Importing and exporting agencies such as governments and the Canadian Wheat Board are urged to use the Hudson Bay Route whenever feasible.

    c) Usage of the Port of Churchill should be maximized by two-way hauls and, at the very least, 5% of Canada's annual grain shipments be shipped through the Port of Churchill. [Nov.'95]

    d) The Government of Canada should sell its elevator at Churchill, Manitoba to Canadian farmers for a nominal price. [Dec.'96]

    e) The federal government should nationalize the Port of Churchill and rail line to ensure sovereignty of the North, to protect the environment and provide farmers with an economical alternative for grain shipments. [Nov '17]

2. The NFU recommends that the federal government refrain from privatizing Canadian seaports because this would be detrimental to national unity as well as affordability and equality. [Dec.'96]

3. The NFU shall protest the high cost-recovery fees proposed for federal seaports. [Nov.'97]

4. The NFU will lobby the federal government to nationalize the Port of Churchill and rail line to ensure sovereignty of the North, to protect the environment and provide farmers with an economical alternative for grain shipments. [Nov. '17]

Highways, Bridges and Other Transportation Infrastructure [Nov.'97]

1. The NFU strongly recommends that the federal government keep its promise to the taxpayers of Canada and require Strait Crossing Development Inc. to adhere to the terms of its contract: specifically, that toll

fees for the Confederation Bridge be based on 1992 Marine Atlantic revenues indexed to inflation. [Nov.'97]

2. Trail societies act as if they automatically have rights to right-of-ways and abandoned rail lines. However, rural areas are occupied by families, homes, and farms, and are not wide open spaces. Because there are no provincial laws regulating trails and because the greatest population is in urban areas, the NFU will lobby the provincial governments for trail laws and recognize that trails should be constructed in urban areas. [Nov.'99]

3. Urban traffic has increased dramatically on rural roads. Urban drivers often do not recognize the dangers of large and slow-moving farm machinery or the sometimes disproportionate amount of road farmers must use. Farmers, for their part, are travelling on the roads for greater distances to rented land. This interaction creates dangerous situations for farmers and travellers alike. Thus, the NFU shall petition provincial governments, farm safety associations, and municipalities to install signs on roadways to inform traffic of slow-moving farm vehicles. [Nov.'02]

ENERGY

1. The National Farmers Union believes that the development of energy resources should not be left in the hands of multinational corporations. Nor do we believe that marketplace criteria such as profit and loss should be the criteria determining development and use of energy.

2. Private benefit objectives are normally in conflict with the best interests of national public need. Energy is a vital national concern. Multinational corporations must not be permitted to exploit this vital resource for profit purposes detrimental to the public interest.

    a) The NFU shall publicly oppose privatization of provincial Crown-owned hydro and power corporations. [Dec.'96]

3. As a matter of national policy the federal government, in co-operation with the provinces, should develop a comprehensive all-inclusive energy policy for Canada which will encompass research, exploration, production, conservation, allocation. A commission needs to be established to control the price for all forms of energy.

4. The NFU will support the creation of a publicly controlled interprovincial electrical grid, particularly between BC-AB-SK-MB and between Ontario and Quebec to accelerate the transition to a net-zero national electricity grid and the clean energy opportunities the new connections would create. [Nov.'23]

Fossil Fuels and Energy Conservation

5. The world reserves of fossil fuel resources are being rapidly depleted. Peak oil is either imminent or already here. Canada should take immediate and extensive action to ensure that the development and use of domestic energy resources are managed in the best interests of Canadians. [Dec. '10]

6. In order to protect our energy resources and develop them for national purposes, all facilities employed in the development, extraction, processing and distribution of all energy resources within Canadian jurisdiction should be nationalized by the federal government. Petro-Canada which now exists as a crown corporation, must remain so.

7. The federal and provincial governments should:

    a) Take full ownership and control of the natural gas and petroleum industry in Canada, including exploration, production, transportation, refining, research and sales. [Nov.'05]

    b) Ensure that personnel other than those with current vested interests in the energy and related financial industries should form the management and develop policy for a Canadian public petroleum industry.

    c) Take all necessary measures to halt the drain of science and technology from Canada which is necessary to develop our own energy resources and finance public research on alternate sources of electric energy.

    d) Develop an all-Canadian grid for the distribution of the various forms of energy adequate to serve the needs of all parts of Canada, to be operated with the objective of equalizing costs of energy throughout Canada.

    e) Canada's electrical transmission lines – unlike those in Europe – are undersized, leading to a problem of stray voltage due to lack of separation between the return line and the ground system. This stray voltage affects all people and animals to varying degrees. The NFU urges all levels of government to implement measures to rectify the problem of stray voltage from electrical transmission lines. [Nov.'07]

    f) Develop a pricing formula for all forms of energy that will insulate Canadians from the so-called "world market". Price must be divorced from profit and investment. Energy must service the political objectives of a prosperous and healthy economy capable of full

employment. Conservation must be encouraged as a means of eliminating energy waste and slowing the rising costs of energy.

g) Encourage energy conservation by providing a modern, co-ordinated rail transportation system that will permit maximum movement of goods and people by rail throughout Canada.

h) Insist on major improvement in the efficiency of energy conservation in the internal combustion engine and support research to achieve this end, as well as develop alternative and more efficient forms of energy.

i) Ensure that all works related to the development, transmission, processing and use of energy be ecologically compatible. Sulphur emissions must be kept to a minimum by requiring the installation of sulphur recovery equipment in every gas plant regardless of the volume of raw gas processed. Farmers should be consulted prior to oil well site clean-ups to ensure damage to farmland is kept to a minimum.

j) Ensure that the recycling of used petroleum products be promoted.

k) Hydraulic fracking should be stopped. [Nov.'11]

l) For as long as fracking is still allowed the federal government should:
   i) eliminate the due diligence defence or set some appropriate level of minimum liability;
   ii) allow penalties above the maximum for negligence;
   iii) require insurance to cover both the liability and fines;
   iv) allow private prosecution and personal liability for statutory and common-law violations;
   v) require tracers in fracking fluids. [Nov.'12]

8. At the present time, grain producers are entirely dependent on fossil fuels to produce grain. As fossil fuel supplies decline, this will necessitate changes in agricultural practices. The NFU urges provincial and federal governments to undertake studies analyzing the impact of the fossil fuel shortages on food production, and the implications for food sovereignty. The NFU also urges the Government of Canada to assist farmers, in the long term, to change their production methods in order to decrease their overall reliance on fossil fuels. [Nov.'08]

9. Energy production from sustainable sources including tidal, solar, geothermal and wind will create sustainable employment and reduce the costs of food production. Generation of sustainable power by individuals for personal use or resale into the grid is also desirable. Support for these environmentally sustainable energy sources will help conserve essential water, fossil fuels, and natural gas supplies. [Nov.'08]

Climate Change

1. The NFU demands that all levels of government acknowledge the need to massively and urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. [Nov.'11]
2. Global warming is a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon-dioxide. Carbon can be "sequestered" through proper soil conservation practices. There are proposals to measure "stored" carbon in terms of carbon credits which may be commodified and traded amongst countries. It seems very likely that carbon credit trading will result in richer countries buying credits from farmers in developing countries and this practice may allow for actual increases in greenhouse gases. Therefore, the NFU believes that individual countries must be responsible for greenhouse gas reduction within their own border. The NFU further believes that carbon credits should not be commodified and traded between nations, companies, or individuals. [Nov.'00]

3. The NFU supports the Kyoto Agreement and the NFU will work to ensure that all provincial governments encourage the Federal Government to ratify the Kyoto Agreement. [Nov.'02]

4. The NFU should provide information, support, and climate change mitigation strategies to farmers. [Nov.'13]

5. The NFU should lobby all levels of government to create comprehensive agriculture rebate programs based on measurable on-farm carbon emission reductions and increased carbon sequestration. [Nov. '16]

6. The NFU will consider filing an Amicus brief supporting the Federal Government's right to enact policies that will mitigate climate change. [Nov. '18]

7. The NFU will conduct a literature review to investigate actions to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events, and include soil health as a means to reduce the effects of these events. [Nov. '18]

8. The NFU recognizes that there is a climate emergency, and we call on all levels of government in Canada to immediately do the same and take appropriate binding action to avoid the devastation and destruction of our farms and food systems. [Nov. '19]

9. The NFU will examine partnering with the 4 per 1000 Initiative to promote and educate farmers on regenerative and sustainable agricultural practices that combat global warming and ensure food sovereignty. [Nov. '19]

10. The NFU commits to fossil fuel divestment and encourages our members to divest from the fossil fuel industry, and other unions, organizations, and institutions (including universities, credit unions, and the CPP) to divest from the fossil fuel industry in solidarity with farmers in Canada and around the world. [Nov. '19]

11. The NFU, in collaboration with allies such as Farmers for Climate Solutions, will press the Federal and Provincial Governments for ongoing financial programs to support farmers in the adoption of Best Management Practices which reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. [Nov. '22]

12. The NFU will advocate for our federal government to mobilize with near-wartime like intensity to create the Canadian Farm Resilience Administration (CFRA), modelled on the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), to secure the resilience of Canada's farm and food system during the current climate emergency. The NFU will advocate for the CFRA to be a publicly funded, public interest institution operating across Canada whose functional units could include large numbers of public extension agrologists, research and farmer co-research facilities, demonstration farms, data collection units, soil testing labs, education and dissemination divisions and any other experts or professional services as necessary. [Nov. '22]

13. The NFU opposes the use of pipelines to transport captured carbon dioxide, which threatens both traditional Indigenous lands and farmland. [Nov. '24]

14. The NFU will lobby against the use of public money to support industrial carbon capture and storage projects. [Nov. '24]

Energy Pricing

1. On the matter of an energy pricing policy, we recommend:

   a) The domestic price on fossil fuels be set at the average retail price based at January 1, 1979 across Canada with a built-in formula taking into account production costs, and that it be priced the same regardless of where it is consumed in Canada.

   b) The domestic price be:

      i) Set at the average retail price based on January 1, 1979 across Canada with a built-in formula taking into account production costs;
      ii) The same regardless of where it is consumed in Canada;
      iii) Provincial and federal governments remove all taxes and

royalties from farm fuels and petroleum derivatives.

c) All export sales of non-renewable energy be halted. Until this is accomplished, the export price:

i) Rise immediately to the international level;
ii) A formula for distribution between the federal government and the provinces be struck for income sharing.

d) A National Energy Fund:

i) Be established to which the federal government and the provincial government will deposit an amount of income from export and domestic fuel price;

ii) Funds to be used to:
- Create equal oil pricing across Canada;
- Do adequate research and development to make Canada self-sufficient;
- Do adequate research into other forms of energy development such as solar, biomass and others, excluding uranium development;
- Plan for Canada's long-term energy needs.

e) Petro-Canada Corporation remain a crown corporation and become the sole agency to:

i) Develop Canada's resources (extract, process);
ii) Distribute retail fuel to consumers;
iii) Direct research to meet Canada's long-term energy needs.

f) Distribution and allocation of supplies should be based on Canada's needs, with priorities established and controls implemented by the National Energy Board.

g) We request federal and provincial governments to remove all taxes from farm fuels.

h) We request that the federal government provide a rebate of the carbon levy on farm-used fuel used for grain drying operations [Nov. '19]

2. The NFU will lobby all government departments to increase pollution pricing on aviation fuels to reflect the social cost of its dangerous pollution and constrain growth in the aviation sector. [Nov. '24]

Nuclear Energy

1. a) We urge the Government of Canada speak out against nuclear arms proliferation and work hard towards unilateral disarmament in conjunction with the United Nations. We support the position that calls for the signing of a strategic arms limitation treaty and the convening of a conference on Detente and Disarmament.

b) We share the growing concern over the threat to mankind and the environment arising out of the proliferation of nuclear energy generation facilities and the attending problems of waste disposal and storage. We are concerned over the manipulation of governments by large multinational corporations who are promoting the extremely costly production and financing of nuclear reactor installations for profit purposes around the world, thereby contributing toward the nuclear arms race.

c) We ask the Government of Canada to end all uranium mining and refining and urge all provincial governments to desist from uranium development and exploration but actively pursue renewable, non-toxic, clean energy options and pass legislation forbidding the disposal of high, medium or low level nuclear waste anywhere in Canada until all questions have been answered regarding future leakage, contamination or possible reintroduction for military purposes.

d) We oppose any Canadian involvement

in the production and testing of nuclear weapons and cruise missiles. We support the position that all nuclear weapons be deactivated and dismantled and military spending be eliminated. We call upon the federal government to declare Canada a nuclear-free zone and that it cease all production of parts in Canada for the nuclear arsenal.

e) We support the signing of the agreement on Intermediate Nuclear Forces and the Nuclear Test Ban proposals to prevent the development of new and more efficient methods of mass destruction.

f) We reaffirm our alliance and support of groups for nuclear disarmament.

g) We urge that nuclear studies be incorporated into the school curriculum to point out the nature and dangers of nuclear technology.

2. The NFU is opposed to new nuclear facilities due to the environmental problems associated with storage of radioactive waste and calls on all federal and provincial governments to suspend all development permits. The NFU demands full disclosure and accounting of operating costs, including those costs associated with nuclear waste disposal and decommissioning of existing nuclear plants. The NFU urges federal, provincial and municipal governments to promote conservation and alternative renewable electrical power generation options such as solar, wind, bio-mass, tidal, co-generation, geothermal, low-impact run of rivers, and potentially clean coal. The NFU rejects privatization of energy development and reaffirms support for public ownership of renewable, sustainable energy options. [Nov.'08]

3. The NFU calls on the provincial and federal governments to suspend any and all allocation of funds towards the development by any developer(s) for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs). [Nov. '21]

Ethanol

1. Ethanol used as a fuel additive substantially reduces the harmful hydrocarbons. Federal and provincial governments must implement policies which ensure that farmers growing the grain used for ethanol production receive a price that reflects a fair return on cost of production. To ensure equity of market opportunity for ethanol-producing grain, it should be sold exclusively through the CWB.

2. In the production of ethanol, more fossil fuel is expended growing the crop and producing the ethanol than recovered when the ethanol is burned. Ethanol production will require massive subsidies and cause environmental problems resulting from emissions, water usage, wastewater treatment, and attendant large feedlots. The jobs created by ethanol manufacturers (such as Broe Industries) will be subsidized through federal and provincial tax concessions by about $500,000 per job. Ethanol plants are subsidized food burners and grain should be used as food rather than being burned for fuel. The further industrialization of agriculture with ethanol plants transfers power from farmers to corporate integrated processors as farmers are relegated to producing cheap grain for secondary processing. [Nov.'02]

Therefore, the NFU will: [Nov.'02]

a) educate the people of Canada about the costly misadventure of ethanol manufacturing; [Nov.'02]

b) demand that initiatives announced to produce ethanol in Saskatchewan with Broe Industries be immediately cancelled, and other initiatives for ethanol production (mandated usage, tax breaks, and subsidies)—such as Manitoba and Saskatchewan are proposing—not proceed; [Nov.'02]

c) inform and work with like-minded groups and environmental organizations to promote renewal energy sources to ensure that we do not impose this destructive and costly initiative on the citizens of Canada; and [Nov.'02]

d) send this resolution with background information to all federal and provincial

governments and municipal government organizations. [Nov.'02]

3. Food production should have priority over biofuel production. [Nov.'13]

4. The NFU will advocate to Environment and Climate Change Canada to release a best estimate for the indirect impacts of biofuel production and use on GHG emissions, soil health, water retention, and biodiversity. [Nov. '24]

5. The NFU will advocate that Environment and Climate Change Canada along with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada develops strategies on how indirect agricultural land use impacts can be accounted for in environmental policy and regulations. [Nov' 24]

6. The NFU will pursue strategic partnerships with ECCC and others, to educate the Canadian public about the interconnection between biofuel regulations, food and land pricing, power structures in farming, and the conversion of new land into cropland as land uses intensify. [Nov. '24]

Wind Power and Solar Power

1. The NFU supports efforts to move away from reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear power toward renewable, clean sources of energy such as wind and solar. These renewable energy sources provide an opportunity to revitalize local rural communities if they are developed in ways that promote and facilitate local individual and cooperative ownership and enterprise. [Nov.'04]

2. With wind power, in particular, it is important that governments choose a system that maximizes benefits to farmers. The NFU recommends that provincial governments adopt a system known as Advanced Renewable Tariffs, which is well-established in Europe and which has a proven record of benefiting farmers and rural communities. Advanced renewable tariffs must be applied so that local communities will profit from the projects and Canadian manufacturers produce at least 75% of the equipment." [Nov.'04]

3. Leases for wind and solar installations should not be signed without seeking legal advice. [Nov. '09]

4. The NFU recommends that municipalities and environmental organizations become well aware of the shortcomings of the Green Energy Act (GEA), and that landowners and these organizations should also be aware of who controls and benefits from industrial energy developments. [Dec. '10]

5. Local communities, governments, and community organizations should have the right to limit or refuse renewable energy projects, be able to access all relevant studies, extract royalties, and control distribution. [Nov.'11]

Other Alternative Energy Forms

1. Large amounts of fossil fuels are used in the manufacture of cement. Meanwhile, the supply of used tires on farms continues to increase each year, notwithstanding the existing uses for recycling old tires, there remains a large surplus. These tires constitute environmental and health hazards. However, controlled incineration of tires produces significant amounts of heat energy. This energy is ideally suited to the production of cement. The federal and provincial governments should approve the controlled incineration of used tires in the manufacture of cement. [Nov.'07]

CROP INSURANCE

1. Farmers suffer crop losses each year from natural hazards such as hail, drought, flood, frost, wind, wildlife, etc. The federal and provincial governments have organized crop insurance programs in all provinces except Newfoundland. The NFU promotes the following policy proposals:

   a) Careful research into coverages, premiums and crops covered, with a view to updating premiums and coverages each year. Once premiums are paid and contracts issued for crop insurance for any given year, that contract be honoured in full.

   b) Spot loss hail damage to crops be instituted in each province.

   c) The termination date for crop insurance covering fire damage should be extended until harvest is completed.

   d) Full policy control of provincial crop insurance programs by appointed boards of farmers and government is needed.

   e) Spot loss coverage for losses resulting from wildlife and waterfowl damage be introduced by the provinces concerned. The premiums and administration for this coverage be fully paid for by the federal and provincial governments on the basis of full compensation for actual crop value plus interest to recipients on overdue accounts.

   f) Coverage be available in any province for all crops grown.

   g) Coverage be provided to allow farmers the option of insuring stubble fields against the possibility of spring flooding.

   h) A disaster fund be established, to compensate farmers suffering a series of consecutive crop losses.

   i) Studies be conducted to ascertain if crop insurance should be voluntary or compulsory.

2. In recognition of varying crops and crop conditions between provinces as well as cultural methods and practices, crop insurance protection in each province may need refinement. The NFU will study and enter into negotiations with provincial governments and/or provincial crop insurance boards to provide:

   a) Crop insurance for specialized farmers who require special kinds of insurance to cover their costs of production;

   b) Updating of existing crop insurance programs to cover the specialized farmers.

   c) Organic crop insurance. [Nov'15]

3. We oppose any reduction in funding by the federal government toward crop insurance as well as proposals for amalgamation of crop insurance with Western Grain Stabilization.

4. Payments for spot-loss hail damage should not be deducted from payments made under crop insurance. Spot-loss hail coverage should be separate from guaranteed crop insurance. [Nov. '95]

5. Seed companies which mislabel seed varieties as being herbicide-tolerant (such as Roundup-Ready canola) should be liable for any damages caused to plants grown from that seed which are not herbicide-tolerant. Crop insurance in such cases should not be held responsible for compensation payments involving re-seeding due to herbicide damage. [Nov.'03]

6. Scientific studies have clearly shown that crops such as wheat and barley are vulnerable to damage from airborne Hydrogen Flouride (HF), a byproduct of industrial manufacturing and petroleum refining. The NFU calls on the federal and provincial governments to set more stringent standards on air quality for HF, and to increase the air quality monitoring. The NFU further demands that companies which exceed these standards be liable for

the damages – and that farmers be compensated for yield and quality losses through crop insurance. [Nov.'06]

7. The NFU recommends the current system of crop insurance be researched and changed so that farmers who experience reduced crop yields for several years in a row due to adverse weather conditions are not penalized by the resulting lower farm guaranteed production levels since this is not due to the farm management abilities of the farmer. [Nov.'07]

Disaster Assistance

1. The NFU will press for federal and provincial legislation creating agriculture-specific plans for emergency management of compound natural disasters, including protections for smallholder farmers and protections against disaster-driven financialization of agricultural land. [Nov. '21]

Safety Nets [Nov. '95]

1. The NFU supports safety net programs which respond to need, are capped, factor in cost-of-production formulae, and assist beginning farmers. [Jan. '95]

2. The NFU will take opportunities as they arise to discuss these concerns with other farm organizations in an attempt to build support for alternatives to NISA as its flaws become more clear over time. [Jan. '95]

3. The NFU reiterates its call for a comprehensive national safety net system for farm families. [Nov. '95]

4. No safety net or assistance program should be linked to mandatory farm registration. [Dec. '10]

5. Because it is inadequate in the face of the income crisis plaguing farm families, the NFU totally rejects the AIDA program in its present form. [Nov.'99]

6. Farmers are facing a chronic financial crisis possibly worsening because of global warming creating more unstable weather. Present programs—AIDA, NISA, and Crop Insurance—are inadequate to address the problem. Therefore, the NFU advocates working with various governments to develop new ways of calculating support levels in programs such as crop insurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest, to form a financial plan. [Nov.'99]

   - An enhanced crop insurance program that provides increased coverage including enhanced unseeded acreage coverage. [Nov.'99]

   - A Pooled Stabilization Program (PSP)—this would operate in a similar fashion to the NISA program except that accounts would be pooled rather than held individually. [Nov.'99]

   - A cost-of-production formula that would guarantee that farmers would receive the cost of production for the domestic component of their production. This formula should be developed with the New Brunswick task force committee to define the full cost of production including land labour regulatory and marketing costs and a measuring tool (GPI) to monitor all costs and benefits at the farm level. [Nov.'99]

7. Canada's farm safety net programs have failed miserably in their professed aims: helping farmers hold onto their land and farms; supporting rural communities; and stabilizing rural economies. Moreover, the actual effect of these untargeted and uncapped programs has been to push away farm families off the land, concentrate land ownership among a small number of large farmers, and facilitate the corporate seizure of control of many farm sectors including hog production and cattle finishing. To reverse this policy failure, the federal government and each provincial government should: [Nov.'01]

   a) clearly state the objectives behind their farm safety net programs; and [Nov.'01]

   b) compare the actual performance and effects of those programs to the stated objectives. [Nov.'01]

c) Restructure Business Risk Management and farm support programs to ensure that they function to increase the number of farmers. [Nov. 20]

d) Increase margins and net farm income from the markets. [Nov. 20]

e) Decrease Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – this includes capping and reducing payments to very large operations; Prioritize, in all government programs, increasing farmers numbers and net incomes while reducing emissions; and Measure and report progress metrics for net income, GHG emissions, and farmer numbers. [Nov. 20]

f) Ensure vertically integrated agriculture companies earning estimated profits over $3 million are not eligible for support program funding. [Nov '21]

8. Governments often mislead the general public into believing that farmers are getting large aid packages, when only a small portion of government money is directed to aid family farms. The NFU will demand that the federal government give public clarification as to what percentage of a given farm aid package is distributed to agricultural industries and what percentage is dedicated to help the family farms. [Nov.'02]

9. The NFU supports policies that lead to more farmers and not fewer. Canada's safety net programs, however, encourage larger farms and fewer farmers. Therefore, the NFU will work with other farm organizations to create a graduated farm safety net program with an emphasis on preserving small- and medium-sized family farms. [Nov.'02]

10. Under the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program introduced in 2004, farmers are required to post a deposit in order to participate in the program. The NFU calls for the elimination of the CAIS producer deposit. [Nov.'05]

11. The NFU supports, in principle, the Ontario Risk Management program put forward by the grains and oilseeds commodity associations in that province. However, the payment caps to individual farmers under that program must be reduced to $100,000. [Nov.'05]

12. The NFU calls on the federal and provincial governments to implement the Ontario Risk Management Program after first ensuring that payments are capped and that program payments are directed first and foremost to family farm operations. [Nov.'06]

13. The government portion of support for farm safety nets, such as AgriInvest, should not be reduced or diverted. [Nov.'13]

14. The NFU urges the federal government to renew the AgriStability program benefits to at least pre-2012 levels. [Nov.'19]

15. The NFU requests the government of Canada compensate Canadian agricultural producers to the same degree that their competitors in the U.S. have realized, per acre and/or per head, as the first step in a comprehensive risk management program, and that the compensation plan be drafted and implemented quickly. [Nov.'19]

16. The NFU requests that loans through the Advance Payment Program be life-insured at a reasonable cost to the producer. [Nov. '21]

Farm Crisis 1998→ [Nov.'99]

1. The federal government should immediately convene a Royal Commission to ascertain the real reasons for the economic crisis plaguing farmers; and to formulate a plan of action that would assure that farmers receive economic justice for their efforts. [Nov.'99]

2. The farm economic crisis is increasing in severity, and thousands of farm families across the country are forced to leave the land every year. The NFU, therefore, designates the farm economic crisis as its number one priority. [Nov.'04]

Farm Machinery

1. The national and international nature of existing farm machinery companies and the increasing dependency on technology brought about the continuous pressure on farmers to become more efficient in the production of food has aggravated the individual farmer's inability to negotiate effectively with farm machinery companies.

2. The National Farmers Union recommends all provinces set up Farm Machinery Acts to provide for the licensing by provincial governments of all farm machinery businesses and require that a proper repair distribution system be set up.

3. The NFU considers farm machinery to include material handling equipment, dairy equipment, heating and ventilating equipment and animal control equipment.

4. NFU farm machinery policy calls for:

    a) Warranties should include the following on new machinery:

        i) Tractors - 1500 hrs. or 2 years;
        ii) Combines - 500 hrs. or 2 years;
        iii) Other self-propelled equipment - 500 hrs. or 2 years;
        iv) One-year warranty on all other equipment;
        v) That provincial farm machinery legislation require that the serial number be included on a paid receipt issued for a cash purchase agreement to insure delivery or guarantee a refund of a machine's purchase price.

    The above warranties to include all parts and labour at the dealer's shop.

    b) Rejection of New Machines for Non-Performances - within 14 days of normal use within its first two years of operation a machine which does not perform properly may be returned by the farmer and all monies paid to the dealer returned to him.

    c) Parts Service - if parts are not available at the dealer's place of business within 72 hours of ordering emergency repair parts, the dealer and company must:

        i) Supply equipment to the farmer at half the rental rates established by the provincial machinery board;

        ii) If parts are defective, a farmer must be compensated for any loss of time and/or crop because of these defective parts, and the dealer's labour be also compensated for, if he/she has to expand time because of defective parts;

        iii) A farmer who feels aggrieved may apply to the provincial machinery board for compensation due to loss of time and crops.

    d) Sales Contracts - all warranties, repossession procedures, emergency parts service and rejection of equipment procedure be written into the contract of sale.

    e) Repossession Procedures:

        i) No farm equipment may be repossessed by any credit institution until such time as the provincial machinery board issues an order;

        ii) The Board's main function is to bring the two parties together to mediate a satisfactory solution.

    f) Compensation Fund - a compensation fund be set up in each province contributed solely by machinery companies who conduct farm machinery business in the province to compensate farmers for all consequential losses incurred due to delay in repair parts and warranties as determined by the boards.

    g) Farm Machinery Testing - federal and provincial governments co-operate in establishing adequate machinery testing institutes in Canada.

        i) To field test all types of farm machines;
        ii) To issue public reports on machines tested;
        iii) To research new materials, systems and means of improving farm machinery components;
        iv) To promote standardization of machine parts through federal and provincial legislation by 1990.

h) We request the Prairie Agriculture Machinery Institute to conduct and publicize comparative quality tests on such components as swather canvasses, feeder chains, roller chains, bearings, etc.

i) Decibel levels - farm machinery regulations should require manufacturers of tractors, combines and other power-driven machinery equipped with cabs to show maximum decibel levels the operator will experience under working conditions.

5. Federal and provincial governments are asked to take positive action to investigate the excessive profiteering by machinery companies on repair parts and adopt measures to control the cost of such parts to the farmer.

6. Provincial governments are requested to enact legislation to protect farmers against possible liability for the double payment of equipment as a result of default on the part of dealers who act as recipients of payments on behalf of a third party creditor.

7. That the NFU pressure all provincial governments to bond and/or insure all farm machinery dealers through a government insurance agency, based on the average volume of gross sales each year, and that it be guaranteed by the government to protect unsecured creditors.

8. The NFU request that the Government of Canada through the competition bureau and other means, shall actively investigate the detrimental effects to farmers of consolidation in the farm machinery sector. [Nov. '16]

9. The NFU will lobby for provincial & federal government investment in developing and supporting machinery sharing arrangements, [Nov. '18]

10. The NFU will collect and vet information with respect to attractive and viable machinery sharing options. [Nov. '18]

11. The NFU will fight for the "Right to Repair" farm equipment items without being forced or threatened, through means such as loss of warranty, to only go through a manufacturer approved repair service in order to repair items on machinery. [Nov. '19]

12. The NFU calls upon farm equipment manufacturers and our governments who oversee farm equipment manufacturing standards to ensure and legislate that all vital repair and service manual information regarding highly electrically monitored and controlled farm equipment be available to farmers so that farmers have the ability to do equipment repairs in a timely and cost-effective manner.[Nov. '19]

13. Lobby the federal government to introduce a program of financial incentives for farmers and farm equipment manufacturers to convert agricultural equipment to electric. [Nov. '20]

INPUTS

1. Along with public regulation of farm product marketing, there must also be regulation of farm input suppliers and manufacturers and farm services. Therefore, the federal government shall establish the Federal Farm Input Review Board. That Board shall have the following powers and responsibilities. [Dec.'96]

   a) It shall regularly review the farm prices of gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides. [Dec.'96]

   b) It shall regularly publish detailed reports on its investigations. [Dec.'96]

   c) It shall have the power to roll back prices and order refunds of unjustified price increases. [Dec.'96]

2. The NFU calls on the Competition Bureau to investigate the dramatic propane-price increases of 1996-'97. [Dec.'96]

3. The NFU asks the government not to raise taxes on farm inputs, but instead to lower existing taxes to a more just level. [Jan. '95]

4. Direct and indirect taxes imposed by governments on farm fuel represent 55-60% of farmers' farm fuel costs. The NFU will work toward the removal of a substantial portion of these taxes. [Dec.'98]

5. In recent years, the price of coloured fuel in some locations is about the same as clear fuel. Previously coloured fuel was cheaper due to the removal of the road improvement portion of the tax. The NFU calls on governments to ensure that road improvement tax is not included in fuel that is used on land for agricultural purposes in all provinces. [Nov.'07]

6. Farm income has dropped to rock-bottom levels. Farm input costs keep increasing,

leaving net income below zero. The NFU requests that the federal government hold an inquiry into the number of middle men (brokers) receiving large percentages of profit on all commodities [Dec.'98]

7. Federal and provincial governments must collect farm input price data and make it available to all farmers. [Nov.'99]

8. Corporate pressure is being applied to end Canada's "Own Use Import" (OUI) program. The OUI program has helped farmers import farm inputs at affordable prices. The NFU urges the federal government to retain this program. [Nov.'07]

9. The NFU requests a public inquiry into the monopoly of Saskatchewan potash captive supply and price fixing. [Nov. '09]

Genetically-Modified Food Policy

[Nov. '00]

Preamble

The NFU believes that all Canadians—farmers and non-farmers alike—must engage in an informed debate on the genetic modification of food. Citizens must examine genetically modified (GM) food in the largest possible social, historical, environmental, economic, and ethical context. After that debate, citizens—not the corporations that promote these products—must decide whether to accept or reject GM food. [Nov.'00]

Squeezed by falling incomes, farmers look to technologies that claim higher returns or reduced costs. Over the past decades, however, farmers have embraced a wide range of technologies, only to watch net farm incomes fall. Between 1974 and 2000, gross farm income tripled. Net farm income, however, fell. Input suppliers were able to capture 100% of farmers' increased gross returns. Because fertilizers, chemicals, and other technologies failed to fulfill their promises of farm profitability, many farmers rightly question the economic benefits of genetically modifying crops and livestock. [Nov.'00]

While the benefits are questionable, risks and costs are real. Consumers are rejecting GM foods. Markets in Europe, Japan, and elsewhere are closing and domestic markets are likewise threatened. This is driving prices down. Closing markets and falling prices threaten to overwhelm any small, short-term economic benefits that GM crops or livestock may offer. Further, the proliferation of some GM crops has effectively deprived many organic farmers of the option to grow those crops. [Nov.'00]

Further, GM seeds and livestock give corporations increased control over family farms. Any initial economic benefits will be quickly outweighed as farmers are drawn further under corporate control. More than any previous technology—such as fertilizers or tractors—patented seeds sold through contract and multi-page technology use agreements clearly erode farmers' autonomy. [Nov.'00]

Turning to human health, there has not been a systematic, scientific investigation of the health effects of GM foods. The unscientific assumption of "substantial equivalence" is insufficient reason to forgo comprehensive, independent health testing. [Nov.'00]

There are also many unanswered questions about the environmental risks of GM crops and livestock. Genetic modification threatens to unbalance the biosphere, create "super-weeds," endanger beneficial insects, and erode bio-diversity. Bio-diversity is a vital source of raw materials for agriculture and an essential component of environmental well-being. [Nov.'00]

The NFU policy on GM foods recognizes that almost all of the questions surrounding this technology remain unanswered. The policy attempts to introduce precaution and prudence into a process of GM food proliferation driven by profit. Because this technology has the potential to threaten the environment, human health, and the economic well-being of farmers, Canadians should debate and study before we plant and eat. [Nov.'00]

General policy and action plan:

1. The federal government must impose a moratorium on the production, importation, distribution, and sale of GM food until questions regarding consumer acceptance, human health, environmental implications, technology ownership, and farmer profitability are answered to the satisfaction of the majority of Canadians. [Nov.'00]

2. Each GM trait must be assessed and approved, and in the case of stacked traits, each combination of traits must be assessed then approved as a whole by an independent body before registration of a variety. [Nov.'13]

3. Until the federal government respects the wishes of the people and introduces a moratorium, the following interim measures will help protect farmers and other citizens. [Nov.'00]

4. That the Federal Government rescind the approval of GM alfalfa. [Nov. '16]

Ownership and control of GM food technology:

4. All genetic resources and GM technology must be subject to democratic control, collective ownership, and not-for-profit distribution. [Nov.'00]

5. Citizens through their governments, not corporations, must control genetic research and the development of GM products. [Nov.'00]

6. Public money directed to agricultural research must serve the interests of Canadians. Such money must be spent on research into sustainable systems of agriculture which improve the nutrition

and safety of food, the health of the environment, and the incomes of farmers. [Nov.'00]

7. "Terminator", "Traitor", and similar Genetic Use Restriction technologies, along with the WTO's Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) agreement, restrict farmers' right to save, trade, and reuse seed. Thus, they are unacceptable. [Nov.'00]

8. Canada must work to end the export of GM foods and seeds to countries which lack adequate regulation, safety, and inspection regimes to deal with such imports. [Nov.'00]

Genetic Pollution:

9. It is unreasonable to allow genetic modification companies to privately reap profits and not require that they also assume all costs. Genetic pollution is one such cost. Companies producing genetically modified seeds admit that some plants can "outcross" in an uncontrolled fashion. Genetic pollution seriously erodes the incomes of organic farmers and those who do not use GM seeds. Government must hold genetic modification companies accountable for the costs their products create for other farmers and the general public. [Nov.'00]

10. The federal government must compel companies which own patents on GM seeds or livestock to set up contingency funds to compensate for product liability and legislate efficient and accessible mechanisms to enable liability claims to be effectively pursued. [Nov.'00]

Markets and consumer acceptance:

11. Food products which contain GM ingredients must be subject to clear, consistent, mandatory labeling. [Nov.'00]

12. Labeling, information, and ready access to alternatives are the three essential elements of consumers' right to choose. Consumers and farmers must have access to non-GM food alternatives. [Nov.'00]

13. The federal government must establish and enforce strict and effective segregation programs for cropping, transportation, storage, and marketing of GM crops. [Nov.'00]

14. No GM crops, livestock, or food products should be licensed or introduced until major domestic and international customers have indicated their acceptance. [Nov.'00]

    a) That the Federal Minister of Agriculture investigate potential market loss from release of GM Alfalfa. [Nov. '16]

Health effects:

15. Food—genetically-modified and non-modified alike--must be adequately tested, regulated, and inspected. These critical tasks must be performed by a sufficient number of adequately-funded, independent, publicly-paid inspectors. [Nov.'00]

16. Independent scientists at publicly-funded and operated labs under the jurisdiction of the Federal Minister of Health must conduct exhaustive long-term human health testing on GM foods. The assumption that GM foods are "substantially equivalent" to their non-GM analogs is unproven. [Nov.'00]

17. The Precautionary Principle must be the basis for assessing the human health effects of GM food. Where human health and safety are concerned, mere "risk assessment" is not acceptable. [Nov.'00]

Environmental effects:

18. Prior to environmental release, GM seeds, animals, and organisms must be subject to environmental assessment. The Precautionary Principle must form the basis for assessing environmental effects. [Nov.'00]

19. Given that the negative environmental effects of GM crops—super-weeds, displacement of species, destruction of habitat, loss of genetic diversity—may be huge, and that the existence and magnitude of these effects are largely unknown, the Precautionary Principle clearly indicates that we should not introduce GM plants, livestock, or other organisms into our biosphere. [Nov.'00]

20. The increasing incidence of Fusarium which is moving into our western Canadian grain-growing areas has a proven connection to the use of glyphosate herbicide. The NFU, therefore, calls on the federal government to refrain from licensing any crops that are genetically-modified for glyphosate weed control until in-depth studies of the possible long-term effects are conducted. [Nov.'00]

21. The NFU calls on the CFIA to deny the registration of genetically-modified alfalfa. The application by Monsanto to have "Roundup Ready" alfalfa registered would threaten the

markets and livelihood of Canadian farmers and cattle producers. Furthermore, the possibility of contamination by this genetically-modified alfalfa is largely due to the fact that alfalfa is an insect-pollinated crop and cannot be isolated geographically. [Nov.'04]

22. The NFU supports the initiatives to expand GM-free zones in Canada, its provinces and municipalities. [Nov.'05]

23. The federal government terminate the registration of GM alfalfa in Canada on the basis that GM alfalfa is a glyphosate resistant perennial weed which will increase production costs of glyphosate-resistant canola, soybeans and corn [Nov. '16]

Government promotion of GM foods:

23. The NFU insists that the Government of Canada cease using public money to fund the promotion of GM foods and crops. [Nov.'00]

24. Research, development, investment, and promotion of Enviropig™ should be stoppedand the resources redirected to the real needs of hog producers. [Dec. '10]

GM Foods Short-Term Actions:

1. A committee established by the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) is developing a definition of genetic modification for the purpose of a voluntary labeling. Two definitions are proposed: one which is broad and would include products of more conventional plant breeding, and one which is narrow and would only include products developed by means of r-DNA technology [to change the heritable traits of a plant, animal or micro-organism used as a food or any ingredient in a food by means of recombinant DNA (r-DNA) technology]. The r-DNA definition is accepted internationally, and for Canada to have a different definition would cause significant problems. The National Farmers Union will indicate to the CGSB that the NFU strongly supports the narrower, r-DNA definition of "genetically modify". [Nov.'00]

2. The NFU condemns the position taken by the CWB on GM grains (of rDNA technology) and the NFU demands that the CWB reject the projection and marketing of GM grains. [Nov.'01]

3. Article 27.3b of the TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement calls for the patenting of micro-organisms and micro-biological processes, and as such, facilitates the ultimate commodification of the fundamental building blocks of nature. To reverse this policy error, the NFU calls for the elimination of patenting of life and its derivatives. The NFU further rejects the sui generis option of 27.3b of the TRIPS agreement because these options are generally understood to be plant breeders' rights. [Nov.'01]

4. The NFU condemns the federal government policy of allowing secret, uncovered test plots of rDNA grains across Canada. [Nov.'01]

5. French farmer activists José Bové and René Riesel have recently been sentenced to 14 months in jail for their creative and effective non-violent actions against GMOs and corporate globalization. The NFU will officially appeal to the President of France to grant a presidential pardon to Bové and Riesel, and publicize this request and the reasons for it as widely as possible. [Nov.'02]

6. There is a growing demand for organic wheat. However, that demand cannot be met if GM wheat is allowed to be introduced. The introduction of GM wheat will result in widespread contamination of wheat stocks in Canada. The prevalence of GM canola has already ruined the prospect of organic canola production and marketing. The NFU urges the federal government to reject the licensing of GM wheat, and calls for an immediate halt to all field testing of GM wheat. [Nov.'03]

Nanotechnology: [Nov.'03]

1. Humankind now has the ability to observe and manipulate matter at the level of individual atoms or at "nanometers" (1 billionth of a metre). This ability allows alterations to the behaviour and properties of elements, chemicals and biology in unforeseen and unpredictable ways. Nanotechnology is being meshed with biotechnology to replicate new materials and apply new processes. Unfortunately, the same intellectual property rights privileges that concentrated ownership and control of biotechnology in the hands of a few multinational corporations are being used to consolidate ownership over nanotechnology as well. The NFU calls for a freeze on the patents of all products involving nanotechnology until the consequences, control and environmental

and human health issues are understood and fully debated in the widest possible sense in public and in government. The NFU should also initiate a policy and advance recommendations to regulate nanotechnology. If necessary, a moratorium on the use, commercialization and application of nanotechnology may be called for. [Nov.'03]

Synthetic Biology: [Nov.'14]

1. Provincial, territorial, and federal governments, as well as the United Nations, should place an indefinite moratorium on the practice and products of synthetic biology until such time as its potential ramifications can be more fully comprehended and effectively regulated. [Nov.'14]

OTHER POLICY GOALS

INTERNATIONAL

1. We believe that Canada as a nation should have national and international goals for the production and distribution of agricultural products and must develop a public planning system in order to ensure that production policies are consistent with, and complementary to, the attainment of those goals. Toward this end, we reject the globalization of food production and marketing controlled by multinational corporations.

2. We support the underlying principles of long-term trade agreements for agricultural production and urge that where such agreements are ratified by our government on behalf of Canadian farmers, the legitimate economic interests of primary producers be fully guaranteed.

3. While subsidies to farmers are necessitated under current economic circumstances which find major industries in Canada protected by tariffs, subsidies and similar protective mechanisms, we support a movement toward reciprocal world trade between nations, in agricultural products and industrial goods, to the mutual advantage of both.

4. We believe that Canada should enter into multi-commodity agreements with less developed nations under the auspices of the United Nations Council on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) designed to bring about just prices for exports and imports from those countries.

5. We support the continuing and expanded use of food by our nation through co-operation with such agencies as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Red Cross and other legitimate agencies, for the relief of human suffering in the world.

6. We urge constant vigilance and action by our government in protecting the legitimate interests of Canadian farmers against the effects of violent market supply and price disruptions that may follow the importation into Canada, by corporations, of foreign food products at distress prices.

7. We believe our government has a moral obligation to protect developing countries from exploitation by national and multinational corporations using Canadian resources and on the Canadian market.

8. Our government should immediately establish the necessary agencies who would deal directly with developing countries for goods we import from them and pay them a price satisfactory to their requirements in order that the benefit would serve their people rather than the profit position of the corporation.

9. As a matter of international policy, Canada should also play a leading role in programs whereby the more affluent countries of the world assist the development of technology and the skills of farmers in developing countries in order to achieve the best use of their agricultural resources. The NFU believes that practising Canadian farmers have a major role to play in such programs by offering their technical assistance and knowledge gained through practical experience directly to farmers in these countries. Towards this end, we support the "Tools for Peace" project currently directed toward assisting the farmers of Nicaragua and urge the Canadian government to make the provision of aid in general and food aid in particular, a priority to that country, establish an embassy and condemn U.S. military involvement in Central America. We urge the fair distribution of foreign disaster aid to such countries as Nicaragua, regardless of their politics.

10. We recommend to our government the increased use of practising farmers as members of international trade delegations seeking new and expanded markets for farm products.

11. World population is increasing at an alarming rate, and this factor coupled with a demand for improved levels of nutrition in the diets of people in the less developed countries will put increasing pressure on available world food supplies.

12. World food population is also increasing in aggregate, but annual production is unpredictable, being subject to the vagaries of climatic conditions throughout the world. In some years there will be serious shortfalls in production to meet world food needs. This means that in years of high production, food banks will have to be maintained if mass starvation is to be avoided in the lean production years.

13. Canada, being one of the few countries with a potential for being a major exporter of food, particularly grain, should take the lead in promoting the concept of an international food reserves bank. Participating countries would share the cost of carrying supplies in high inventory years, to be distributed as need develops in years of low production. The concept of a world food bank would require not only proper food storage facilities, but also the development of a food distribution system capable of ensuring that food reach needy people without waste and spoilage.

14. The NFU demands that any reduction of "Canadian content" in food aid shipments from 90% to 50% must be accompanied by guarantees from the Canadian Government and the World Food Programme that local and regional purchases in the recipient nation or region will actually be from farmers or their co-ops, and not from multinational grain traders. [Nov.'04]

15. Efforts to support developing countries to improve trade balances and their own development can be assisted through support of the UN resolution 3362 of September 16, 1975, entitled "Development and International Economic Co-operation." We do so in principle.

16. Acts of injustice and terrorism which occur with increasing frequency in many parts of the world must be opposed whenever they take place.

17. We urge NFU members analyze and compare our standard of living to that of persons in less developed countries with a view to promoting education and policy that can help reduce useless consumption, environmental destruction and militarism in order to direct human and other resources to achieving comfort for all instead of luxury for some and poverty for most.

18. We oppose Canada becoming a member of the Organization for American States and urge it refrain from joining.

19. The NFU shall begin an investigation of the possibilities of Canada joining the European Union (EU). [Nov.'02]

20. Because the Helms Burton Act restricts trade and democratic processes, the NFU encourages Canadians who take winter vacations in Florida, USA, to take their vacation in Cuba instead. [Dec.'96]

21. The Government of Grenada has announced plans to convert 200 acres of scarce, prime agricultural land into a golf course for use by foreign investors. This will displace highly diversified, experienced farmers leaving the only employment open to them as golf caddies. The NFU opposes this plan and will write to the Government of Grenada protesting this gross misuse of farmers and agricultural land. [Dec.'96]

22. The living conditions for millions of South Africans are sub-human, even after apartheid has ended. Therefore, the NFU will send a letter to the Mandela government raising our concerns and issue a press release to publicize the living conditions in South Africa. [Dec.'98]

23. Canada is supporting the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan even though this bombing is aggravating the problems of providing humanitarian aid to over 7 million Afghans on the verge of starving over the winter. The NFU demand the Canadian government withdraw support for the U.S. military policy and actively work for a peaceful solution of problems through the United Nations. [Nov.'01]

24. Afghanistan, one of the poorest countries in the world, is suffering food shortages and high rates of malnutrition, in part because of the destruction of food production capacity due to the counter-insurgency war. The NFU demands the withdrawal of Canadian troops from the counter-insurgency war in southern Afghanistan at the earliest opportunity. The Canadian government must also work with the UN General Assembly to develop a strategy aimed at helping Afghanistan recover from decades of conflict. In addition, the Canadian government must provide aid to rural people in Afghanistan for the restoration of their food-growing areas. [Nov.'06] [Nov.'07]

25. The USA seems determined to engage in a war with Iraq on whatever pretext they can find and the USA is trying to involve many other countries, including Canada, in that war. The NFU opposes Canada becoming involved in a war against Iraq and the NFU will communicate its opposition to that war to the Government of Canada. [Nov.'02]

26. The NFU calls on the Canadian government to cease all direct and indirect military involvement in the war in Iraq. [Nov.'06]

27. The NFU supports the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of

Indigenous People (UNDRIP) [Nov. '17]

28. The NFU condemns the fascist and violent coup that is threatening the lives and livelihoods of peasants and Indigenous peoples in Bolivia, and calls on the Canadian government to denounce the self-constituted government and demand an immediate return to the democratic process; and furthermore that we call on the United Nations (UN) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to investigate the violence and human rights violations that are taking place, and to safeguard both democracy and justice in Bolivia. The NFU also condemns the role of Canadian extractivism in Bolivia, and advises the Canadian government not allow mining interests to impede democracy. And we call on the Canadian media to accurately and transparently document and disseminate information about the events unfolding in Bolivia. [Nov. '19]

29. The NFU will advocate for the Canadian government to vote in favour of the UNDROP at the UN General Assembly; and will advocate for the implementation of the UNDROP across production scales and legal jurisdictions and urge the Canadian government to respect and uphold the rights contained within its articles both in Canada and in its relations abroad. [Nov.'23]

30. The NFU endorses the call to create an International Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and publicly endorse the call by becoming a signatory organization; and will call upon the government of Canada to use all diplomatic measures to create and endorse a binding International Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as soon as possible. [Nov.'23]

31. The NFU joins with the hundreds of other humanitarian, civil society, labour, and faith groups in calling on the Government of Canada to:

    a) Call for an immediate ceasefire in Israel-Palestine

    b) Call for an end to the blockade of Gaza and for the restoration of humanitarian aid and access to the basic necessities of life

    c) Use all diplomatic means at its disposal to support the negotiation of a just and lasting peace in the region

    d) Call for Israel to meet its commitments under the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law. [Nov.'23]

32. The NFU will call upon the Canadian Government to:
    1. Ask United States representatives, through the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to lift the blockade against Cuba as well as to remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism;
    2. Reaffirm the importance of the Cuban people's human rights and denounce the blockade against Cuba as one of the key barriers to the Cuban people's full enjoyment of their human rights; and
    3. Ensure that Canadian relations with Cuba continue to be based on equality and respect for sovereignty, independence and the right to self-determination. [Nov. 24]

33. The NFU will strengthen its relationship with ANAP and organize a humanitarian educational exchange of members to visit sites of urban and sustainable agriculture, permaculture, agricultural cooperative farms and other activities. [Nov. 24]

33. The NFU will advocate for provincial governments to divest from surveillance and military technology, research, and manufacturing; and invest in agricultural programs and food sovereignty instead. [Nov. '24]

TRADE POLICY

1. The Canadian federal and provincial governments must work with farmers, rural residents, and all citizens to establish a food production, distribution, and trade system in Canada and around the world which would ensure: [Nov.'99]

    a) That all people have access to sufficient, nutritious, and safe food; [Nov.'99]

    That the means of producing that food remains in the hands of peasants, small and medium-sized farmers, and indigenous peoples—both men and women; Nov.'99]

That food producers receive a fair and adequate return for their work; [Nov.'99]

That wealth created in rural areas fosters the security and prosperity of rural communities. [Nov.'99]

That agricultural policies and practices protect and enhance the natural environment; [Nov.'99]

That every country has the right to adopt all necessary measures to ensure the preceding goals; and [Nov.'99]

That the international food trade is subservient to the preceding goals. [Nov.'99]

Further, the preceding principles must form the basis of the Canadian government's WTO negotiating position. [Nov.'99]

2. Free trade negotiations avoid the questions of Canada's real economic goals, purpose and direction both domestically and globally, in terms of greater social participation, equality, and the pursuit of peace. We oppose the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and urge that:

   a) The federal government abandon the Agreement signed on January 2, 1988;

   b) That future efforts to rebuild the Canadian economy proceed from extensive and open discussion with all Canadians, the provinces and organizations.

   c) That the federal government enforce Article 701.4 of the CUSTA and demand that the U.S. government compensate Canadian farmers for income losses incurred as a result of the grain trade war it has waged against the European Community.

3. The NFU calls for dialogue with labour, agricultural, business, women's and church groups to examine the implications of the move toward freer trade with the U.S. and Mexico upon their own communities.

4. The NFU must express concerns about free trade and free trade negotiations with local members of Parliament and members of the provincial legislature.

5. The NFU urge that no changes be made to the present primary producer status or their representative marketing boards before consulting with the National Farmers Union. Further, we urge our federal negotiators engaged in international trade discussions must strengthen Article 11 in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to protect our supply-management systems and the rights to control imports.

6. The NFU demands that the federal government not sign any GATT agreement that does not have a strengthened Article XI to ensure the continued viability of Canada's poultry and dairy industries.

7. The NFU strongly opposes conclusion of a NAFTA agreement without consultation with the Canadian public, i.e., a full public debate and referendum.

8. All foreign edible-product imports should be identified as to their chemical content and country of origin. [The NFU pushes Agriculture Canada and all other regulatory bodies in Canada to restrict labeling so that imports not be labelled 'Product of Canada' and work with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to promote this restricting of the 'Made in Canada' label.] [Jan. '95]

9. The NFU requests the federal government change the "Product of Canada" labeling laws to reflect accurately where a food was grown and processed. Food that is grown and processed in Canada should read: "Grown in Canada" and/or "Processed in Canada". [Nov.'08]

10. a) The NFU urges the federal government to reject the Interim Report of the Canada/U.S. Joint Commission on Grains. [Nov. '95]

    b) The NFU also urges that the Canadian Commissioners be withdrawn on the grounds that the Commission inappropriately used its terms of reference to examine an internal Canadian matter. [Nov. '95]

    c) Finally, the NFU urges that the federal government use the dispute settlement mechanisms provided in the GATT and NAFTA agreements. [Nov. '95]

11. The NFU will, nationally and in each region, call on federal and provincial governments to hold

public information sessions on the impact of the MAI. The NFU will do its utmost to ensure that information on the MAI is distributed to the membership and the media. [Nov.'97]

12. The NFU calls on the Government of Canada to withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement and to pursue economic and trade policies that improve the prospects for Canadian farmers, workers, communities, and the environment. [Nov.'00]

13. The NFU urges the Canadian government to take agriculture and food out of the North American Free Trade Agreement. [Nov.'06]

14. The federal government should make all the information and proposals in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) draft document available to members of the House of Commons and all Canadians. [Nov.'01]

15. The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) has been accused of unfair trading practices by the USA eight times, and cleared eight times. Canadian farmers and taxpayers are forced to pay defense costs in each case. Therefore, the NFU urges the Canadian government to demand penalties for trade harassment. [Nov.'00]

16. Negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) which put at risk Canada's sovereign right to guarantee the borrowings of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) are unacceptable. The NFU demands the elected Directors of the CWB take a leading public role in protecting the integrity and viability of the CWB and that the Canadian government refuse any WTO agreement which harms the harms the CWB. [Nov.'04]

17. As a member of Via Campesina, the NFU is committed to social justice and fair trade policies. The NFU will endeavour, whenever possible, to provide Fair Trade Coffee during national conventions. [Nov.'05]

18. Country of Origin labeling should not be used to unfairly block legitimate trade in commodities such as livestock. [Nov.'08]

19. The NFU calls on the federal government to retreat from the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), particularly any provisions of the International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV) '91 contained therein. [Dec. '10]

20. The National Farmers Union seek restitution as provided by NAFTA for Canadian discriminated beef and pork producers and for those producers that have left the industry as well as securing the same degree of compensation for Canadian sheep and goat producers that are still being injured by C.O.O.L. legislation. [Nov. '16]

21. The NFU demands the government of Canada negotiate that Chapter 26 "Joint Committee" of Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) be removed. [Nov. '19]

DOMESTIC POLICY GOALS

1. We resolve to establish a permanent Farm Products Planning Agency whose responsibilities relating to food production might include:

   a) Assessing the productive resources of Canadian farmers and their future productive potential;
   b) Establishing annual and long-term guidelines for farmers on forecasted requirements and trends of individual farm commodities for both domestic and export markets.

2. We urge the government to expand and co-ordinate research programs in the areas of production techniques and crop varieties in order that efficiency levels of Canadian farmers may be maintained and expanded.

3. All federal research farms should remain open and active. [Nov.'12]

4. Governments have cut funding to agricultural research programs. Remaining government funds are often available only through matching-dollars programs that require partnerships with transnational life science corporations. Corporate funding skews and compromises the results of university research programs. Family farms desperately need independent agricultural research to develop sustainable farming methods that lessen our dependence on expensive chemicals, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology while increasing profits and protecting the environment and our local communities. Thus, the NFU will urge governments to immediately decouple government-initiated research from industry research funds and that the NFU will urge governments to significantly increase funding to independent research. [Nov.'02]

5. All university research programs and trial results should be available to the public. [Nov.'12]

6. We recommend federal and provincial governments take action to restrict the corporate industrial entry into the primary production of food.

7. We recommend elimination of non-farm and foreign investment in farmlands, with the exception of public ownership.

8. We recommend greater research be conducted and control exercised in curbing the indiscriminate pollution of our water, land and air.

9. We recommend use of co-operative principles by members in employing the techniques of collective bargaining as a means of reducing farm production costs, such as in petroleum products.

10. We reject the market-driven approach to agriculture policy as embodied in the 1989 federal green paper, "Growing Together," and recommend instead that the federal government adopt the principles and adopt the policies of the NFU "Alternate Vision of Agriculture."

11. The NFU calls on all provincial premiers and the Prime Minister of Canada to allow elected officials to fairly represent the people who elected them by permitting free votes without fear of reprisals. [Nov. '95]

12. All citizens of this country should have access to the court system. Each citizen must have the opportunity to be represented in civil, as well as criminal, cases by a competent lawyer of his or her choosing, who is adequately compensated through the revenues of the provinces [Nov.'99]

13. The NFU opposes Bill C-31 and all related charges to laws which may infringe on the human right to privacy or may criminalize dissent. [Nov.'15]

14. The federal government should release in their entirety all documents pertaining to nutritional experiments made on First Nations residential school students. The documents should be released to the First Nations leadership as well as the Canadian public and a public inquiry should be called. [Nov.'13]

15. The NFU calls on the federal government to implement a moratorium on the use of tasers in Canada pending the outcome of current public inquiries. [Nov.'07]

16. The NFU supports a move towards true electoral reform which would incorporate a system of proportional representation tailored to Canadian needs, together with strong restrictions and controls on the financing of parties, candidates, and campaigns. [Nov.'99]

17. Bernadin (Altraistac) Company has discontinued manufacturing Gem (Jar) Lids "due to diminished demand and old equipment." Consumers and home canners are petitioning Bernardin to reverse its decision and the consumers involved in the Bernardin Gem fight believe the fight is more than just a fight about obtaining lids, but also a fight about food safety and food security. The NFU supports the Bernardin Gem campaign and will encourage members to do likewise by signing and distributing petitions to the Federal Government and Bernardin and the NFU will consider a possible boycott of Bernardin products. [Nov.'02]

18. The NFU National Board will research the impact of the 1969 Federal Task Force Report on Agriculture on the current economic situation in rural Canada, focusing particularly on farmers, farming and rural infrastructure. [Nov. '17]

19. The NFU urges the Canadian government to implement the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. [Nov. '17]

20. The NFU encourages members to participate in reconciliation events in local farming and urban communities. [Nov. '17]

21. The NFU supports initiatives by Indigenous Peoples to assert Indigenous Food Sovereignty. [Nov. '17]

22. The NFU encourages Locals, Regions and their members to participate in local events that provide non-Indigenous people with information about Indigenous Food Sovereignty, and to explore how to implement food sovereignty at a community level. [Nov. '17]

23. The NFU will engage with and define food and agriculture policy within an emerging Green New Deal framework. [Nov. '19]

24. That the NFU ask the federal government to create a Royal Commission to look at how COVID-19 exposed the flaws in Canada's food

and agricultural system, including food production, processing, and distribution systems; to document the impacts of the pandemic-related costs on producers, consumers, labour and taxpayers; and to. propose a strategy to prevent these issues in the future. [Nov. '20]

25. The NFU will advocate that the Federal Government reform the Competition Bureau to give it more teeth to; stop dangerous mergers; create better enforcement rules that prevent and stop unsubstantiated price hikes and; work to break up food and agriculture companies that create a disproportionate lack of competition in a given market. [Nov. '22]

WATER POLICY

1. We oppose any move to export water because of threats to the environment and balance of humidity levels this may cause. [Dec.'98]

2. Water is a basic human need, right and responsibility. It is a public trust, not a commodity for exchange in the international marketplace. The NFU supports the following principles for the management of water in Canada. [Dec.'98]

    a) Water ownership and control must be in the hands of government. [Dec.'98]

    b) Water must not be transferred between river basins. [Dec.'98]

    c) Potable water must be protected for human consumption, basic needs and food processing. [Dec.'98]

    d) Clean water supplies must be enhanced by promoting conservation and protection of water resources, and a transition toward the principles of agroecology. [Dec.'98]

    The NFU will join other like-minded groups in promoting these principles. [Dec.'98]

3. The federal government should create national mandatory standards for the long term protection of water quantity and quality. [Nov'15]

4. The precautionary principle should be used in granting license for new access to water. [Nov'15]

5. Federal, provincial and territorial governments must take climate change into account in their predictions of future water quality and quantity. [Nov'15]

6. The NFU opposes commercial (non-farm use) water-taking in farming areas unless comprehensive and independent hydro-geological studies are done to assure no adverse effect on the aquifer. [Nov.'99]

7. Canadian food security depends on our ability to retain sovereignty over national water supplies. However, under NAFTA, Canada's control over this vital resource is compromised. The NFU calls on the Government of Canada to immediately: [Nov.'06]

    a) secure an explicit exemption for water under the goods, services and investment provisions of the NAFTA and the FTA; [Nov.'06]

    b) place a moratorium on any new water export initiatives until such an exemption is in place; and [Nov.'06]

    c) secure an explicit exclusion for water and water-related services under the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS), the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) and all subsequent agreements related to international trade. [Nov.'06]

8. Simplot is building a potato processing plant in Portage La Prairie that may harm the Assiniboine River, fish, and fish habitat. The NFU requests that the federal government intervene under the Fisheries Act and the NFU requests a federal/provincial joint panel review of this project under the Environmental Act. [Nov.'01]

9. Tertiary sewage treatment generates large quantities of toxic residues commonly known as sludge. Sewage sludge is currently spread on farm fields. To protect food safety and the environment, the NFU urges the use of best alternative management techniques and supports the following principles on sewage sludge: [Nov.'01] [Nov.11]

    a) spreading untreated sewage sludge should be prohibited; [Nov.'01]

    b) spreading treated sewage sludge be prohibited until processes are in place to remove heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and

other toxic residues harmful to humans, animals, or the environment; [Nov.'01] [Nov.'11]

c) and until sludge spreading is prohibited, sludge contractors should be required to: [Nov.'01]
   - give timely notice to neighbours within 2 km;
   - conduct environmental impact studies be required by relevant authorities to assess effects of each proposed application on the local environment. [Nov.'01]

10. The NFU opposes the excessive use of fresh water from surface and ground sources for oilfield flooding. [Nov.'06]

11. Provincial and federal governments should publicly acknowledge and identify the incidences of non-saline aquifer contamination by the oil and gas industry. [Nov.'14]

12. Landfills should not be established or expanded on fractured bedrock or other hydrologically unsuitable sites. [Nov.'13]

13. Federal and provincial governments should provide any citizen with access to facilities that can test our well water for neonicotinoids, glyphosates and their respective derivatives. [Nov. '16]

14. The NFU will lobby Health Canada, the federal and provincial Ministers of Environment and Ministers of Agriculture to provide readily and clearly accessible "on-demand-by-landowner" water testing for heavy metals and chemical residues and that these results be disclosed in full to the landowner with summarization of collective data to be sent to public health. [Nov. '17]

15. The NFU will lobby the government to exempt farmers from paying for water not administered by a public utility for household, livestock and irrigation to the extent that is relative to the water sequestration and storage capacity on their landholdings. [Nov. '17]

16. The NFU opposes the $4 Billion Irrigation Project at Lake Diefenbaker proposed by the Saskatchewan government in July 2020. [Nov. '20]

17. The NFU advocates for a ban on cloud-seeding in Canada, except for hail suppression. [Nov. '22]

FOOD POLICY

Attainment of Self Sufficiency

1. The strategy of the federal government in the development of a national food policy has been committed toward maintaining cheap food prices at the farm gate. In this regard, the federal food strategy policy statement of 1977 endorses the existing market system as "one of the best allocative systems available."

2. "Boom and Bust" cycles in the levels of farm prices and production are companion to the operation of the market economy. They have contributed to economic and social instability of the rural community and underdevelopment of our basic food resource industry. They enable multinational conglomerates and food speculators to manipulate market forces in a way which enables them to maximize control over food production and profits.

3. As a consequence, Canada has become deficient in the production of a number of basic food items in which we have the potential and the resources to maintain self-sufficiency.

4. Our growing dependence on imports of such food items now needed to supplement domestic consumer demand, contributes in a negative way toward our national balance of trade, employment opportunities and the value of the Gross National Product.

5. While we do not endorse an isolationist position on food trade, we must strive to develop policies which will encourage the attainment, wherever possible, of national self-sufficiency in food production. The value of our import trade of any particular food item in which we possess potential for self-sufficiency must, as a minimum objective, balance the value of our exports. The federal government must not use agricultural product imports as a trade-off for industrial exports at the expense of Canadian farmers.

6. The National Farmers Union shall urge the federal government to intervene, through its UN Ambassador to the United States, to ensure that each country has the right to be self-sufficient in food production. [Nov.'97]

7. Food is a basic right. The Canadian government has committed itself to implement a plan to achieve the food security objectives at the World Food Summit in Rome, 1996. The NFU endorses the International Code of Conduct on the Human Rights to Adequate Food and the

NFU shall urge the Canadian government to act in concrete ways to implement the Code of Conduct. [Nov.'97]

8. The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) should bring awareness and understanding of food sovereignty to its members and accept food sovereignty as part of its agricultural policy. [Nov.'14]

9. The federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food should consult widely across Canada with the objective of developing a holistic, integrated food and farm policy based on the pillars of food sovereignty as defined by La Via Campesina that meets the social, economic and environmental needs of all Canadians, including farmers. [Nov. '16]

10. Land should be included for family and community gardens and for farmers' markets in urban planning. [Nov.'11]

11. The gouging of farmers in the marketplace requires the federal government to establish a Canadian Food Commission to effectively regulate food and agribusiness companies. [Nov.'04]

12. The NFU encourages all levels of government to co-operate to create mentorship and start-up consultation programs to foster emerging food systems on First Nations Reserves. [Nov.'17]

13. The NFU will campaign to various forms of governments to support more local food related initiatives. . [Nov.'18]

14. NFU supports, encourages or leads on policies that give opportunities for safe, sustainable, urban farming. [Nov.'19]

Need for Nutritious Foods

10. The NFU endorses the objective of maintaining the highest possible levels of nutrition and environmentally clean quality standards in our domestic food production as well as those food products that are exported.

11. Toward this end, we proposed that:

    a) No food products be allowed to be imported that are grown with the aid of chemicals which Canadian farmers are forbidden to use on similar food products produced in Canada.

    b) It be mandatory that all agricultural products, including meats, be labelled to identify the country of origin.

    c) The importation of bread or other food products containing cellulose or the manufacture in Canada of such products, be forbidden.

    d) The importation or domestic manufacture of analogs, such as imitation cheese and meat products, be forbidden.

    e) Strict controls be imposed on the advertising of junk foods, and that such junk foods be eliminated from school cafeterias and be taxed to reduce their competitive position to genuine food products.

    f) The potential impact of food substitutes upon the future health of consumers and security of farmers be carefully scrutinized and regulated by the Government of Canada.

    g That until proven safe to human health, the use of irradiation as a preservation.

    h) Food and the environment should be tested weekly for radioactive contamination. [Nov. '11]

    i) The NFU supports the overturning of approvals for the artificial sweeteners known as "exito-toxins". [Nov. '09]

12. The NFU advocates that all food inspection and testing at meat packing and processing plants be carried out by qualified inspectors employed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Meat packing plants and food processing plants should not be allowed to police themselves. The NFU further advocates that a sufficient number of CFIA food inspectors be employed to ensure food safety measures are followed in meat packing plants and food processing plants. [Nov.'08]

13. The NFU requests that the federal government ensure that any food imported into Canada meets Canadian standards. [Nov. 09]

14. Food safety standards should enable farmers to increase local direct marketing. [Nov.11]

Consumer Education:

15. Canada is in the midst of a health care crisis caused in part by poor nutritional information available to consumers and in part by an inefficient system of transporting highly-processed and over-

packaged food great distances. The NFU—in cooperation with other like-minded organizations—promotes healthy, local food as a solution to this crisis through a media campaign involving op-ed articles and letters to the editor, as well as ensuring we have a presence at food trade shows and educational seminars. [Nov.'06]

16. Food and nutrition should be a core subject for grades 5 to 12, with an emphasis on local, environmentally responsible, and healthy food. [Nov'15]

17. The loss of family farms severely changes and impoverishes rural communities, the landscape, the biodiversity, the environment, the culture of food, and will dangerously affect food security and food safety. Therefore, the NFU will work with like-minded organizations (CCRL, environmental organizations, Council of Canadians, etc.) to build a people's movement which will examine the effects of the blatant world market forces on the future of farming and food production in Canada. [Nov.'00]

18. Many foods and feed products labelled as "Product of Canada" do not, in fact, contain ingredients grown in Canada. Many farmers and consumers are concerned about the deceptive nature of food labelling. The NFU is committed to a campaign that raises awareness and forces federal and provincial governments to provide clarity and accuracy in food and feed labelling. [Nov.'07]

19. The NFU will ask provincial and federal governments to hire agricultural extension service staff with responsibility for local food and direct farm marketing. Staff roles would include.
    a) Demonstrating and sharing skilled farming practices
    b) Understanding healthy and safe food skills practices
    c) Giving advice to new farmers
    d) Offering education on producing fewer greenhouse gas emissions
    e) Providing direct marketing advice
    f) Offering a conduit between local food producers and the government [Nov. '20]

PLANT BREEDERS RIGHTS

1. Federal legislation has been proposed to permit Private Plant Breeders' Patent Rights which will change Canada's course in crop development varieties from public control to private control.

2. In the long-term, it will:
    a) Allow for royalties to be paid to private seed companies through ownership of developed varieties and would increase seed costs to producers;

    b) Through private development and control of hybrid seed varieties, contract farming will become more of a reality and undermine our orderly marketing structures;

    c) The free exchange of germplasm that now exists between public plant breeders will decrease as private companies control more of the basic germplasm. Should a disaster occur, we may have no basic varieties from which to start again.

    d) Multinational monopolies will continue to expand and control many of the smaller seed companies, thereby developing many new profit centres at farmer expense;

    e) The control of seed varieties by large chemical and drug companies may lead to varieties which are designed to require higher applications of chemicals and fertilizers.

3. The NFU demands that the federal government maintain and publicly fund all agricultural research and inspection services including licensing and control of seed varieties through public institutions which serve society as a whole.

4. The Canadian Government must reinstate public plant breeding research programs through federal facilities such as the Lacombe Experimental Farm. [Nov.'04]

5. The NFU shall lobby all provincial governments and the federal government to convey opposition to Bill C-107, the Plant Breeders' Rights Act, introduced into Parliament on January 28, 1988.
6. The NFU shall develop an information program involving districts and locals with other like-minded community groups to form a national lobby to inform the government of our position on the issue.

7. We question the practice of the federal government allowing private companies to control the distribution of certain publicly-researched seed varieties and request such seed varieties be released from private control.

8. Farmers are largely unaware of the direction and future potential impact of biotech research.

We call for the establishment by Agriculture Canada together with other funding sources of an "awareness building" fund in order to:

a) Research current and future trends in biotechnology;

b) Research the degree to which the impact on family farmers is being considered by biotech industries;

c) Develop appropriate NFU policies and response to this development;

d) Share the information with NFU membership and the larger farming community.

9. The NFU requests that the federal government increase funding for research stations so the necessary plant breeding of agricultural crops remain under public control.

10. The NFU demands that the federal government rescind the Plant Breeders Rights Act and commit sufficient funding to ensure that Canada is a leader in plant breeding and the interests of producers and consumers, and the environment are protected. [Nov.'00]

11. For hundreds of generations, farmers have carefully selected, developed and improved seeds, resulting in improved varieties suited to local conditions. However, the proliferation of gene patents, combined with government-sanctioned legislative and biological control mechanisms, are steadily eroding farmers' ability to save, select, exchange and sell seeds. The NFU calls on provincial and federal governments to enshrine, in legislation, farmers' right to save, select, exchange and sell seeds without penalty. [Nov.'05]

12. Plant variety developers gained intellectual property protection for a period of 17 years under PBR legislation. Once that protection period expires, plant variety developers seek to remove those varieties from the public domain—a process facilitated by the CFIA's deregistration process for plant varieties. The NFU calls on the federal government to recognize the importance of retaining plant varieties in the public domain following the expiration of intellectual property protection periods. The NFU demands that deregistration of a specific plant variety only be allowed if it can be clearly demonstrated that significant harm will occur to markets or human health from the continued production of that variety. The NFU also calls on the government to institute an open and accountable deregistration process that encourages wide public input and public appeal mechanisms. [Nov.'06]

13. Existing registered plant varieties should not be deregistered solely for the purpose of being replaced by newer, more-restricted varieties. The NFU urges that a public appeals mechanism be implemented within the plant variety deregistration system to ensure the public interest is protected. Requests for variety deregistration should also be subject to a review by a Recommending Committee. [Nov.'08]

14. Plant varieties which are deregistered should have their intellectual property rights extinguished at the time of deregistration. [Nov.'08]

15. The NFU opposes the use of criminal penalties to enforce any form of intellectual property rights. [Nov.'11]

16. The NFU opposes any form of end point royalties being applied to Canadian crops. [Nov '17]

17. The NFU strongly opposes the two seed royalty options put forward by the "Seed Synergy" group, namely: 1. a "trailing contract" which would impose new costs on farmers wishing to save and re-use their seed, and 2. an "end point" royalty whereby farmers would be required to pay a fee on each bushel/tonne produced. [Nov '18]

18. The NFU opposs the use of intellectual property rights such as patents to control, restrict access, or use of soil microorganisms and fungi. [Nov '17]

19. The NFU encourages check-off funded commodity organizations plus the Western Grains Research Foundation to develop farmer-owned and registered varieties of major crops like wheat, durum, barley, peas and lentils. [Nov '18]

20. The NFU will continue to advocate for and build support for public research by using NFU publications like the UFQ and the Rural Voice to highlight some of the unique work, such as that done by the SPUD Unit at the New Liskeard Research Station, undertaken by various public research stations across Canada to support farmers. [Nov '18]

21. The NFU calls upon the federal government to maintain and expand its crop breeding and variety development programs, increase the

budget for these, prevent the privatization of vital crop research and breeding, and reverse the imposition of related user fees on farmers. [Nov.'20]

22. The NFU calls on all seed guides to prohibit publication of any variety that has not gone through the appropriate testing (including merit where required) and registration protocols for the crop kind. [Nov. '22]

23. The NFU will find like-minded allies to support a Public Plant Breeding advocacy day in Canada. [Nov. '24]

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES POLICY

1. Industrial disputes seriously impact the farm community as a result of lockouts and/or strikes.

2. Such disputes generate widespread ill-will within much of the farm community toward the organized labour movement, and give rise to demands that all handling and processing of food be regarded as essential services and industrial disputes involving these services be subject to settlement through the imposition of compulsory arbitration and removal of the right to strike.

3. The imposition of compulsory arbitration would remove the fundamental concept of free collective bargaining for a large segment of the Canadian labour force and destroy a fundamental democratic right of a large segment of the organized labour movement.

4. The NFU supports the fundamental right of organized labour to pursue the principles of free collective bargaining and further urges:

    a) That federal and provincial labour laws be so designed as to assure the effectiveness of free collective bargaining by outlawing the employment of scab labour during the course of legal strikes;

    b) That upon the breakdown of negotiations between parties engaged in disputes, conciliation and mediation stages be required prior to the implementation of either lockouts or strikes;

    c) That compulsory arbitration and/or back-to-work legislation only be considered by governments as a last resort in the settlement of disputes;

    d) That the NFU maintain active contact with parties in dispute affecting the processing or handling of farm products with a view toward understanding the issues under dispute; developing and recommending possible solutions of contentious points and issues; and encouraging the successful completion of negotiations.

BACK TO THE FARM

1. The trend toward a more capital-intensive agriculture encourages the indiscriminate use of chemicals, drugs and fertilizers. Society should be conscious that the use of farm chemicals, drugs and fertilizers carries with it the danger of contaminating food and the environment and their use should be weighed against a possible shortage of food supplies in the world. In the final analysis, farmers themselves will have to set down the terms and conditions that they will require to provide pure healthful food for this nation and our markets abroad.

2. We believe there is a need to:

    a) Develop "on the farm" publicly-funded training programs so more people will become involved in farming (short courses in basic ecology would be a useful program at the same time.)

    b) Provide incentive grants to establish more people on the farm. The NFU must approach the agriculture ministers across the nation and instruct them to promote a positive rather than a negative approach to promoting owner operations (family farm concept) and to promote realistic plans to keep owner operators, not corporate operators, on the farm.

    c) Develop a realistic rural housing program.

    d) Establish some system for independent economic research that will provide ways and means to create an opportunity for farmers to return to the land and stay there such as public land banks which would make crown leases available to prospective farmers.

3. NFU advocates that all levels of government co-operate to create mentorship and start-up consultation programs to foster emerging food systems on First Nations Reserves.

DEFENDING RURAL COMMUNITIES

[Dec.'96]

1. Grain companies are destroying serviceable elevators across Canada. The federal and/or provincial government should enact legislation to require grain companies to offer elevators, intact, for a nominal fee of one dollar, to local farm co-operatives. These elevators could then be used for condominium storage and producer-car loading. [Dec.'96]

2. Wooden elevators are being demolished and burnt and buried at an astounding rate by grain companies. Farmers or persons interested in salvaging wood from these elevators are not able to negotiate an agreement with grain companies, due to liability issues. Therefore, the NFU shall propose an agreement that could be submitted to the grain and/or demolition companies allowing interested parties to salvage materials from demolished elevators. [Nov.'97]

ANTI-INFLATION POLICY

1. When the federal government, in the fall of 1975, announced its intention to introduce a wage and price control program, the NFU rejected the control measures on the grounds that the proposals would not come to grips with the basic problem of lack of public planning and effective management over economic activity within Canada's borders.

2. The NFU stated price increases should only be permitted after application to and approval by the Anti-Inflation Review Board and any increases allowed should reflect real costs rather than greater return on investment.

3. Notwithstanding the fact that prices of farm products did not come directly under the mandatory guidelines set out in the program, downward pressure on farm gate prices resulted as processors and retailers maintained and expanded their profit margins and retail food price levels exceeded the general rate of inflation.

4. Aside from the obvious defects, such as failure to control interest rates, credit spending and unemployment, voluntary restraints accommodate continued exploitation of Canada's resources by national and multinational corporations and their subsidiaries through loopholes that allow for price adjustments based on forward costing projections and future investment plans. In light of the complexities and sophistication of modern consolidated corporate accounting, it is naive to suggest that their claim to higher costs can be seriously challenged.

5. The anti-inflationary proposals reflected a reluctance on the part of the federal government to admit that control of inflation was beyond its power due to the economic influence possessed by large, integrated and diversified multinational corporations.

6. Bank interest rates are a matter of serious concern to farmers who are faced with rapidly escalating input costs that they cannot recover from the marketplace.

7. The on-going problems of inflation, high unemployment, excessive credit spending and continued increases in interest rates demonstrate the lack of firm control and effective management by the public sector over the economic activities within Canada's borders.

8. Government continues to allow national and foreign-based conglomerates and oligopolies to drain capital from the Canadian economy without effective restraint. There is an urgent need for firm government action in assuming control over economic decisions currently being carried out by private planning systems, most of which are based outside of Canada whose only objective is to increase the profit position of shareholders and gain greater control.

9. A deliberate effort should be made immediately to apply public management that will effectively reduce outflow of capital, wasteful production and consumption, and redirect Canadian resources toward productivity that will meet real human needs. Realistic price and profit controls should be initiated on big business.

10. It is predictable that failure to move in this direction will allow a situation where social injustices and economic inequalities will continue and be intensified.

EMPLOYMENT POLICY [Nov. '95]

1. The NFU requests that the federal government refrain from tampering with Unemployment Insurance or making cuts which affect low-income groups, seasonal, or part-time workers. [Nov.'95]

2. The NFU calls on the federal government to do an audit of the Unemployment Insurance Fund

detailing the disposition of funds from 1989 until the present. [Dec.'96]

3. The importance of a fair wage for labour time on Canadian farms is a uniting principle for family farmers and employed farm workers. The NFU supports granting of the right to bargain collectively to employed farm workers in all provinces and the NFU will call upon the Government of Canada to implement the recommendations of the UPWA (United Farm Workers of America) report on "Migrant Farm Workers in Canada 2001". [Nov.'01]
4. Global free trade agreements have increasingly created adverse conditions for small and medium-sized family farmers in many countries, including those in the Caribbean and Latin America. Many of these farmers have been forced to become migrant workers in the U.S. and Canada. The NFU supports the struggles of migrant farm workers in Canada and around the world through its work within the Via Campesina. [Nov.'03]

5. Migrant farm workers in Canada are often exposed to lower pay, unsafe and inhumane working and living conditions and other forms of discrimination. The NFU urges the federal and provincial governments and the Canadian public to uphold the rights and improve the conditions of migrant farm workers in Canada. [Nov.'03]

6. Economic progress is traditionally measured solely in terms of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, growth in GDP also carries negative repercussions on the environment and people. An alternative measure known as the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) measures not only positive economic benefits but also negative social and economic costs. The federal and provincial governments must move to incorporate GPI and other similar measures when developing economic policies. [Nov.'07]

7. The federal government should grant migrant workers in agriculture permanent residency status in Canada [Nov. '16]

8. There should be a Basic Income Guarantee for all Canadians; The federal government should work with the provincial governments to consider, investigate, and develop a Basic Income Guarantee for all Canadians. [Nov. '16]

9. The NFU will support migrant-led movements to win full and permanent immigration status for all migrants including undocumented people. [Nov. '22]

10. The NFU will advocate to provincial and federal governments that ALL migrant workers in Canada have access to provincial health care upon arrival in Canada, in addition to any private health care coverage. [Nov.'23]

11. The NFU will advocate for long-term public investments in:

    a) support programs for all farm workers whose incomes and health will be impacted by lost work hours due to acute climate emergencies

    b) supporting farm employers who will incur additional implementation costs for OHS equipment and protocols related to the climate crisis; and

    c) support for organisations, including unions, farm worker organisations, and migrant worker organisations mobilising on this issue. [Nov.'23]

TAXATION POLICY [Nov. '95]

1. The NFU urges the federal government to retain the $500,000 Capital Gains Exemption for farmers. [Nov.'95]

2. The federal government should increase the Restricted Farm Losses (RFL) rule to $50,000 annually and then tie the limit to the national rate of inflation. [Nov.'14]

3. The NFU shall form a committee to investigate the status of GST and PST harmonization to ensure that tax exemptions for farmers on both PST and GST are accessible in an uncomplicated manner. [Dec.'96]

4. The NFU urges the federal government to reinstate the 5-year averaging for farm income tax. [Dec.'98]

5. To safeguard the family farm, to prevent the rural depopulation which results from large corporate farms leading to rural depopulation, and to discourage large landholdings by banks, non-resident investors and non-farming corporations, the NFU will lobby governments to institute a tax base changed to a graduate system that would see larger units taxed at a higher level than smaller units. [Dec.'98] [Nov.'12]

6. The raising of horses—along with related businesses of stabling and riding—have long been recognized as legitimate agricultural practices. Therefore, the NFU requests the federal and provincial governments to ensure the sale of horses be exempt from retail sales taxes, regardless of whether the horses are sold to a registered farm business or a non-farmer. Further, the NFU urges the federal and provincial governments to classify the maintenance, care and stabling of non-race horses as an agricultural activity. [Nov.'08]

7. The NFU urges the Government of Canada to create a tax system that is fair to everyone, closing tax loopholes that allow major corporations, banks and businesses to move profits off-shore, shelter income with dividend gross- up tax credits, employee stock options and deductions of business entertainment expenses. [Nov.'18]

8. The National Farmers Union will visibly engage with and express public solidarity with living-wage and anti-poverty organizations in our locals/regions and at the national level. [Nov.'18]

CANADA PENSION PLAN

1. The NFU advises that farm family members can split their earnings to be able to pay into the Canada Pension Plan.

2. All homemakers participate in the Canada Pension Plan, and that farm women accumulate late additional CPP credits which recognize their contribution to family farms. Pension credits should be equally split between spouses and surviving spouses receive an increased proportion of a deceased spouse's pension. A drop-out clause be provided to recognize the women's role in raising children to the age of seven without penalty to future pension eligibility. [Nov. '09]

2. The NFU will request the Canadian government reform the Canada Pension Plan to give individuals who operate a farm business, as determined by Government of Canada Income Tax Folio S4-F11-C1, meaning of farming and farming business the choice to make the maximum allowable annual contribution to their CPP regardless of gross personal income. [Nov. '18]

26. The NFU will initiate discussion groups to explore the feasibility of a national farmer pension plan so that all farmers can continue producing food and employment, and be able to retire with dignity. [Nov. '24]

DEBT, DEFICIT, BANKING AND INTEREST RATES:

1. Government borrowing from private financial institutions is costing taxpayers dearly because of high interest charges. Further, these institutions extract excessive profits and do not pay their fair share of taxes. Therefore, both the federal and provincial governments should substantially increase their borrowing from the Bank of Canada, our own bank. [Dec.'96]

2. The Canadian Bank Act is opened in ten-year intervals. At that time, with political will, the people of Canada could make changes to the Bank Act. The Government of Canada is currently using credit issued by private banks and paying interest. The Bank of Canada could issue interest-free credit to maintain our human infrastructure such as health care, education, and public pensions. Therefore, the NFU will urge the Government of Canada to use the Bank of Canada as a source of interest-free credit. Further, NFU members will urge all supporters to take part in developing policies to favour the foregoing resolution. In so doing, we will benefit all Canadians. [Dec.'98]

3. The federal government is financing the national debt through chartered banks, rather than using our bank, the Bank of Canada. Currently the Bank of Canada carries less than 5% of the national debt, compared to 20% of the national debt in the 1970s. The NFU is extremely dismayed that the federal government's policy is to maximize the national debt when it could be minimizing it, since debt reduction and repayment is almost impossible under present circumstances. The NFU urges the Government of Canada to fund at least 50% of the national debt through the Bank of Canada. [Nov.'00] [Nov.'03]

4. The Government of Canada must utilize its right under the constitution to use the Bank of Canada to create and issue 100% of the money supply. [Nov.'04]

5. The federal government should cease its' opposition to the lawsuit filed by the Committee on Monetary and Economic Reform (COMER) for failure to carry out the mandate of the Bank of Canada Act. [Nov'15]

6. The NFU will receive research on Slow Money investment vehicles for family farms. [Nov.'15]

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

We must first affirm our belief that every individual is created equal, and is entitled to life and love. Notwithstanding this belief, we recognize that in our society, we ourselves do not accord to each person the same opportunity to live in dignity and peace, without prejudice.

We recognize that women in contemporary society must have the opportunity to develop their personhood so that they may participate fully in the political arena, in the economic sphere within the power structure which now tends to subjugate and exploit rather than fulfill their needs.

We are concerned because inequalities exist in many facets of a woman's life. Through discussion and the adoption of policy positions, we must rectify the injustice which prevails. Our areas of concerns are that:

a) That Canadian and Provincial Bills of Rights be amended to truly prohibit all discrimination.
b) All persons receive equal pay for work of equal value.
c) All persons be given equal access to education and job training at all levels, and that sex stereotyping be eliminated.
d) Adequate childcare facilities be available across Canada, including rural areas.
e) There be crisis centres established across Canada and a crisis telephone number listed for every exchange.
f) There be more extensive health care services provided in rural areas.

8. We call upon provincial and federal governments to assure that all advertising be free from sexist symbolism and that segregation of the sexes at Department of Agriculture meetings and seminars not be prompted by the assumption that spouses have no interest in participating in general information sessions related to family farm operations.

9. We call on all people worldwide to stop the practice of female genital mutilation, female circumcision and cutting. [Nov.'13]

10. All levels of government should provide adequate resources to prevent further violence and indignities to Canada's indigenous women and to resolve outstanding cases. [Nov.'14]

11. The NFU commits to issuing an annual statement of solidarity with families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on October 4th of each year; [Nov. '17]

12. The NFU urges members to represent the NFU at Sisters In Spirit vigils across Canada every year on October 4th. [Nov. '17]

Matrimonial Property

1. The NFU requests provincial and federal governments to introduce matrimonial property legislation that implements the principle of equal-sharing provisions respecting matrimonial property rights in all forthcoming marriages and in this regard:

   a) "Matrimonial property" is defined as all property of assets acquired by either spouse during the time of their marriage but excluding inheritance and gifts.

   b) Spouses be accorded half interest in matrimonial property, regardless of financial contribution.

   c) The principle of equal sharing of matrimonial property be applied retroactively to all existing marriages.

   d) Declarations of assets and liabilities to each spouse be mandatory at the time of marriage.

   e) Any specific changes in application of legislation governing matrimonial property as it applies to each individual marriage must be mutually agreed upon and for this purpose each spouse in a marriage contract must have separate legal counsel.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

We believe government agencies delay getting involved in protecting the rights of children because of public pressure placed on government to stay out of the personal lives of private citizens. Facilities the authorities have to work with are minimal and resource people are too few to meet requirements. NFU policy requirements for federal children's rights legislation are:

1. Adequate nutrition and medical care;
2. Love, affection and understanding;
3. Special care if handicapped;
4. Development of individual abilities and

thinking for one's self;
5. Protection against all forms of abuse, mental or physical or exploitation of the child;
6. Right to a name and nationality;
7. Be among the first entitled to relief in times of disaster;
8. More consideration during marriage breakdown;
9. Have equality within the laws of Canada such as:
    a) The right to participate in decisions affecting their lives;
    b) Have the rights required to overcome discrimination with regard to colour, sex, religion, and national or social origin.

10. An education system which, in fact, teaches the child to be concerned about others rather than teaching children to be selfish in nature.

11. The National Farmers Union should lobby nationally and each Region of the NFU shall lobby their own provincial governments, including in collaboration with other like-minded organizations, to keep our rural communities alive through a strong education system that allows our children to attend schools within their own communities. [Nov. '16]

CHILD CARE POLICY

Child care services must be of high quality, meaning that they are staffed by competent and trained persons in a ratio of children to workers that can assure a quality standard of care. In addition, facilities need to have adequate space, be imaginatively and creatively furnished and provide a stimulating atmosphere for children, keeping in mind the specific requirements of special needs children. If children are to spend several hours each day in child care facilities, it is important these considerations be met because we believe it does have an influence in stimulating their emotional, social, physical and intellectual growth for future learning.

Young children attending child care facilities must be considered as being in a learning environment.

In some rural areas such facilities might be established in existing schools where room may be available. Another option would be explored by providing child care facilities within or adjacent to senior citizen homes. While it is not suggested that senior citizens be responsible for the care of pre-school children, there would be some who might welcome short daily periods of contact with young children.

Because we emphasize quality in child care, we also recommend such facilities be publicly-funded. This route implies the active interest, support and involvement of parents at the community level as being essential. Everyone now contributes in one way or another toward the public funding of education, whether or not we have children attending the school system.

In our view, pre-school child care facilities ought to be considered as an extension of the education system.

Public funding of child care services might ideally involve the three levels of government - federal, provincial and municipal, on a shared-cost basis.

Universal accessibility of child care is another principle we recommend. Universality is recognized in a number of social programs including medicare, old age pensions, family allowances, education and basic welfare payments. Child care is no longer considered as a frill or a luxury. Two-job families are the results in large measure of economic circumstances such as high interest rates, inflation and job insecurity.

We believe in the implementation of non-profit child care services. While the issue of non-profit versus private daycare services is the subject of debate, we hold the view that private child care services are likely to be more expensive and result in lower wages to child care workers. At times the fulfilment of profit goals may result in a reduction of the quality of care provided.

In our view, public funding ought to be limited to non-profit operations.

The NFU demands that the federal government follow up on their previous commitment to Canadian families by initiating a National Child Care Policy.

1) That the federal government implement a Farmer Parental Insurance Plan that will enable farmer parents to receive parental leave benefits. [Nov. '16]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

1. CBC International is a vital service. The NFU shall make its members' strong support of this service---and of CBC in general---known to the Prime Minister, Minister in charge of CBC, the CBC President, and other MPs. [Dec.'96]

2. All Canadians have a vested interest in safe, nutritious food, and the CBC, as the nation's public broadcaster, has a responsibility to pursue issues that are of concern to Canadians. The NFU urges the CBC to initiate a national radio program that examines food and farm issues. [Nov.'03]

CABLE TV

1. Broad-band networks for transmission of cable TV should be operated as a public utility with a view to providing equal access for both rural and urban subscribers, and be made available only to broadly-based, non-profit, community-controlled organizations for provision of cable television service.

Guidelines for the Development of Non-Profit Community Controlled Cable Television Organizations:

2. Any organization seeking a license to provide cable television must:

   a) Be incorporated as a legal entity (company, society or co-operative) with bylaws which indicate the non-profit status of the incorporation.

   b) Provide for the participation of subscribers to cable television service in the affairs of the organization through share ownership or representative arrangements.

   c) Indicate arrangements for the participation of membership-based organizations in the community.

   d) Provide for mechanisms which would ensure free and reasonable access to all interested organizations and individuals to the program production and distribution facilities of the organization.

   e) Indicate arrangements to co-operate with cable television organizations in other communities to share resources and facilities needed for programming activities and importation of commercial and non-commercial remote signals. In particular, organizations in the larger communities should indicate arrangements for assisting the smaller communities in providing service.

   f) Provide for a programming advisory council for the organization's Board of Directors which would be responsible for promoting the participation of the community in program production.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: [Jan. '95]

1. Guidelines for use of right-of-way:

   That the telecommunications company:
   a) pay sufficient compensation to the landowner;
   b) carry all liability of damage to underground transmissions lines.

2. The NFU will join with like-minded groups to press for telecommunications services to be affordable to all Canadians, and further, that rural rates be comparable to urban rates. [Dec.'98]

3. Because the use of cell phones while driving is becoming common, and because using a cell phone can distract a driver and jeopardize the safety of the driver and others using the road, the NFU requests that the government enact a law requiring drivers to pull over and stop before using the cell phone in their vehicle. [Nov.'99]

4. Agricore United intends to sell or dispose of The Manitoba Co-operator, a very important newspaper to farmers. The NFU supports an employee group purchasing The Co-operator. [Nov.'01]

5. The NFU will lobby the federal government and regulators to improve rural telecommunications infrastructure to a standard and speed at least equal to the average of European nations, at a reasonable cost in comparison to urban areas. [Nov.'17]

6. The NFU will lobby the federal government to enshrine in law the commitment to net neutrality in the provision of all telecommunications services and infrastructure. [Nov.'17]

HEALTH CARE

1. The National Farmers Union regards health care to be the inalienable right of all citizens. We, therefore, endorse the principle of universal and comprehensive prepaid health care services with guaranteed accessibility to all citizens.

2. We are concerned by the erosion occurring in health care services by opting out of doctors and the limiting of comprehensive coverage and accessibility through the practice of extra-billing.

We call upon the federal and provincial governments to apply the principle that doctors who choose to practice medicine in Canada do so either under the medical plan or entirely without financial support of government if they choose to opt out.

3. We support and endorse the efforts of the Canada Health Coalition in creating greater public awareness of Medicare and in lobbying provincial and federal governments with a view to:
   a) Returning to the 50/50 federal-provincial funding of public health care principle.
   b) Placing more emphasis on preventive health care.
   c) Encouraging the development of group practice community health centres.
   d) Inclusion of para-professional health care personnel in cost-shared programs.
   e) Provision of more convalescent and chronic care facilities, nursing homes or home care programs.
   f) Ensuring adequate income for all health workers.
   g) Ensuring access to adequate health care in sparsely populated areas.
   h) Eliminating extra-billing, deterrent or user fees.
   i) Expansion of Medicare to include dental care.
   j) Creating a national Pharmacare program. [Nov'15]
   k) Recognition of alternative healing methods.

4. We support the principles of a Canada Health Act which encompasses:

   a) Universality - including all citizens of Canada.
   b) Comprehensiveness - including mental and dental care and prescription drug plans.
   c) Accessibility through banning of extra billing, user fees and premiums.
   d) Portability between all provinces.
   e) Administration that is non-profit.

5. The NFU advises the Ministers of Health and Agriculture and the District Health Boards of our support for a publicly-funded health care system that does not perpetuate gender inequity and further recommends: [Nov. '95]

   a) The encouragement of a co-operative model of health care delivery at the community level; [Nov. '95]
   b) An opportunity at the community level to participate in ongoing needs assessment. [Nov. '95]
   c) And the intentional involvement of women as formal decision-makers at all levels reflecting their majority role as volunteers and paid-workers in the sector. [Nov. '95]

6. There are currently few studies examining occupational hazards on the farm. The NFU urges the federal government to initiate studies on farm health and safety.

7. The NFU supports MP John Solomon's private member's bill to shorten the patent-protection period on new drugs to four years (from the present 20). The NFU shall convey this support to the Federal Minister of Health, the Prime Minister, and to MP John Solomon. [Dec.'96]

8. Our public health care system is being incrementally dismantled by numerous governments and private interests across the country. Therefore, the NFU calls upon the governments of Canada and the various provinces to: [Nov.'01]

   a) defend vigorously the five basic principles of Medicare; [Nov.'01]

   b) reject the use of "user fees" for approved public health services. [Nov.'01]

9. The NFU supports an enhanced role for registered nurses and pharmacists in the delivery of health care services. [Nov.'08]

10. In the public interest, Health Canada must have more input before new virus testing and genetic materials are approved. [Nov.'13]

11. The use of Bisphenol A should be prohibited. [Nov.'13]

12. Canadian women should be provided with well trained and resourced quality maternal health care services and maternal health education should be improved, with particular regard made to the special needs of rural and remote women. [Nov.'13]

13. The NFU advocates for publicly funded Medicare coverage of mental health services that meet the needs of farmers and rural people.[Nov. '19]

14. The NFU will press the appropriate Health Canada officials for the development and production of a hantavirus vaccine. [Nov. '21]

FARM SAFETY

1. Public funding should be restored to farm safety education initiatives. [Nov'15]

2. The NFU and other farm organizations should help facilitate the implementation of these safety initiatives. [Nov'15]

CANADA POST SERVICES

1. The provision of postal services to rural areas is absolutely vital to the viability of many rural communities. We oppose the stated intention of Canada Post to vastly reduce postal services across Canada, and particularly to rural areas, in efforts to record a profit. The provision of postal services must be regarded as a right and not a privilege. Changes should not be made without democratic consultation with the public, elected representatives, postal unions, and other major stakeholders. [Nov. '09]

2. The NFU demands that:

   a) Canada Post and our elected representatives refrain from further discriminating against rural communities in the quality of postal services through the practice of franchising and/or contracting such services;

   b) Communities already affected by reductions must have postal services restored and improved to previous levels in circumstances where they are dissatisfied with privatization. We urge no further privatization occur without the concurrence of communities affected.

3. The NFU shall in its efforts to obtain justice for rural residents in the campaign for postal services, join and support the efforts of "Rural Dignity of Canada."

4. Because Canada Post makes a profit delivering advertising mail, and because, in the absence of profits Canada Post may be privatized, the Government of Canada should allow Canada Post to continue deliveries of advertising mail as long as private companies are allowed to continue such deliveries. [Dec.'96]

5. The NFU rejects United Parcel Service's attempt to erode and undermine Canada Post and the NFU continues to support Canada Post and a public system that provides equitable service to all Canadians. [Nov.'01]

6. The NFU agrees the safety of rural mailbox drivers is important. However, the Rural Mailbox Assessment Program is not being applied consistently or fairly, resulting in a needless disruption of service to many rural residents. The NFU recommends that a moratorium be placed on the Rural Mailbox Assessment Program, and that future decisions on rural mailbox placement and design be mutually decided between Canada Post drivers and the landowners involved. Rural mailboxes which have been deemed unsafe under the program need to be reassessed in a fair and consistent manner. [Nov.'08]

STATISTICS CANADA

1. Statistics Canada should allow farmers to complete the Farm Financial Survey by mail or online and eliminate the telephone interview. [Nov.'11]

CORRECTIONS

1. The NFU urges that the federal government and the Correctional Service of Canada to maintain and utilize the six prison farms in Canada including the Pittsburg Institution abattoir. [Nov. '09] [Nov.'15]

CROWN CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP [Nov.'97]

1. Because of the negative effects experienced by rural citizens as a result of poor rail service, branchline abandonment, rising inspection fees, the erosion of agricultural safety nets, the loss of the Crow Benefit, and much more the NFU will, nationally and in each region, protest to the federal and provincial governments in the strongest terms that there be no further privatization or deregulation of crown corporations and public institutions. [Nov.'97]

2. The Fraser Institute is well known for its opposition to social programs, collective bargaining, and marketing boards which benefit grassroots Canadians and primary producers. Therefore, the NFU shall strongly express its opposition to both federal and provincial governments to any donations to, or membership in, the Fraser Institute or other like-minded organizations by any crown corporation. [Nov.'97]

CANADA'S CONSTITUTION

1. The NFU's Statement of Purpose states in part: "We are learning that as farmers we hold a common stake in the welfare of one another and our nation. We are learning that the pursuit of only individual self-interest leads inevitably to self-destruction."

2. We support the establishment of strong national farm product marketing agencies which on occasion requires the transfer of marketing powers from provincial governments to federal jurisdiction. Similarly, we have supported the use of 'declatory powers' by the federal government, as in the case of elevators and railways; the equality of individuals and individual rights in the areas of health, education, property and land use.

3. Against this background, we support a Canadian Constitution and endorse:

   a) That we regard Canada as one country with two official languages, French and English;
   b) That our country be divided into provinces and territories that may become provinces;
   c) That we affirm our conviction of a United Canada;
   d) That we support entrenching in the constitution the right of citizens to education in either official language where numbers warrant;
   e) That we support entrenching in the constitution the right of all Canadians to use an official language in Parliament, in federal courts, and in communicating with any head or central office of the Government of Canada;
   f) That we support entrenching in the constitution the right of all Canadians to move freely from one province to another, to establish a residence, and to seek a job anywhere in Canada, and to enter, remain in, or to leave Canada;
   g) That we support equalization, which involves the redistribution of wealth among the richer and poorer provinces, so that Canadians in all provinces can be provided with a reasonable level of public services, and we support entrenchment of this in the constitution;
   h) That we consider fundamental freedoms and rights - except language and mobility rights, should not be entrenched in the constitution, but should be the responsibility of elected representative in Parliament or the Legislatures;
   i) That we support retaining the right of the Government of Canada to legislate on matters of interprovincial and export trade;
   j) That we support retaining the right of the Government of Canada to declare an asset to be a work for the General Advantage of Canada;
   k) That we support the ownership of natural resources be retained by the provinces but that the federal government must have a major role in the regulation of their development in the national interest;
   l) That we consider an alert, informed and vigilant population to be essential if human rights are to be maintained regardless of Canada's laws or its constitution.
   m) The NFU objects to any attempts to limit people's civil rights by bringing in regressive legislation such as Bill C-36: the Anti-Terrorism Act. [Nov.'01]

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

1. All of the foregoing is a condensed outline of the goals, objectives and ambitions of the National Farmers Union. The struggle to achieve these goals will not be easy or short-term.

2. Attainment of these goals will only be achieved through members working together to build the membership of our organization to the point where by having a majority of farmers in Canada as members, the NFU can be certified as the bargaining agent for farmers through legislation containing the principles outlined in the Agricultural Producers Collective Bargaining and Marketing Act adopted at the 1973 Convention.

3. The executive body of the NFU is charged with the responsibility of making presentations to federal and provincial governments to acquaint them with changes required in government policy and legislation in order to meet the policy objectives endorsed by delegates at National Convention and to request governments to take the necessary action to implement such change.

4. The NFU, being the leading farm organization in the development of new concepts of farm policy to cope with ever-changing conditions, is constantly on the cutting edge of change, and as such, vulnerable to a great deal of misunderstanding and criticism from other sectors of society and also from many farmers who are not knowledgeable as to the external forces which affect the farm community.

5. The philosophy of the NFU does not appeal to

members of the farm community who believe that they can resolve their problems within their own fence lines by the use of the most modern science and technology coupled with good business management. These farmers tend to be promoters of the free-market system and may become pawns of the private agribusiness community, wittingly or unwittingly.

6. The private agribusiness community and in some cases, government, maintain a constant barrage of propaganda to discredit any attempts by farmers to organize orderly marketing for their products, and they encourage the development of special interest commodity and provincial organizations to keep farmers divided and subject to their manipulation and exploitation.

7. Politicians, in order to become elected or re-elected, are sensitive to pressures from all sectors of society. Upon petition from the NFU to effect policy changes, the politician's first response is usually, "How many farmers do you represent?" and even though they may be sympathetic to the proposal, unless they are convinced that there is general public support, they are reluctant to implement new policy.

8. Therefore, the role of the NFU is not only to develop new policy but to promote NFU philosophy and policies among the public in general and farmers in particular to enlist their support.

9. The NFU's efforts to promote farm policies must include lobbying of federal and provincial elected representatives, in conjunction with farm demonstrations. These actions are aimed at education and reinforcing the NFU's policies.

   The NFU will continue to work with other organizations on issues of common concern. [Nov.'06]

Policy Statement: [Dec.'96]

1. Policy positions in the NFU Policy Statement shall bear the year (and month where two Conventions occur in one year) of their adoption as well as the year of their latest revision. [Dec.'96]

Convention: [Dec.'98]

Important issues are dealt with by the Women's and Youth caucuses at each year's National Convention of the NFU. On each morning henceforward following the Women's and Youth caucuses at National Convention, reports from those caucuses are to be received by the National Convention of the NFU. [Dec.'98]

Internal to the NFU: [Nov.'02]

1. Because there may be uncertainty about whether the NFU-Ontario bylaws are in conflict with the NFU constitution with regard to membership voting rights, the NFU shall strike a joint committee with the NFU-Ontario to examine the possible conflict and, if necessary, propose measures that would create harmony between the NFU constitution and the NFU-Ontario bylaws. [Nov.'02]

2. The NFU offers unlimited free one-year trial electronic memberships to new members in 2015 in regions with no stable funding. [Nov.'14]

3. The Board and Executive should oversee and approve recommendations made by the Brand Development Working Group in fulfilling its mandate of 'improving the NFU brand'. [Nov.'14]

4. The new two-leaf bilingual logo should be used on all NFU promo clothing in the same layout as the NFU-UNF merchandise in New Brunswick. [Nov'15]

5. NFU members are encouraged to consider 'planned giving' in their wills. [Nov.'14]

6. The NFU shall compile a list of emergency moral and financial supports for farmers in crisis. [Nov'15]

7. The NFU will establish internal protocols for rapid disaster response, including the capacity to support mutual aid networks, rapid communication with affected regions for identifying on-the-ground needs, mental health and administrative supports. [Nov. 21]

8. The NFU shall develop and implement an effective harassment policy with procedure to deal with complaints. [Nov'15]

9. The NFU will offer a mentorship sign-up page to connect farmers willing to be mentors and farmers who wish to be mentored. [Nov'15]

10. Members should have the option of monthly dues. [Nov.'14]

11. The NFU encourage local purchasing by its members; and that the NFU place a priority on local suppliers in their purchasing decisions. [Nov. '16]

12. The NFU will coordinate between the office and the regions to allocate resources to calling lapsed members with the objective of having them renew their membership. [Nov. ‘17]

13. The NFU will strike a working group to improve diversity within the NFU, identify barriers to participation for diverse groups of farmers, and develop anti-oppression training for our membership. [Nov. ‘17]

14. The NFU will actively seek out supportive partners to provide valued services, including but are not limited to community credit unions, co-operatives, community mutual insurance companies, union made vehicles etc. as determined by the affected regional coordinator and NFU Executive. [Nov. ‘17]

15. Consider making the Northwest Territories part of Region 7 and begin the process of recognizing the needs and struggles of Canada’s northernmost farmers by asking the NFU board to establish a Northern Advisory committee. [Nov. ‘20]

16. Through the Membership Development Committee, set up a networking strategy that more formally connects members with other members, which could include phone trees, localized teams, forums, mentorships, and farmer-to-farmer workshops. [Nov. ‘20]

17. The NFU will partner with the Service Plus discount program which will allow all members to access a large variety of discounts and member benefit options from across Canada. [Nov. ‘22]

18. The NFU will advocate for reduced commercial air travel, and lead by example. [Nov. ‘24]

Education and Organization:

1. In order to perform these functions well, a high priority of the organization must be to conduct effective, educational programs at the community or local level, stimulate debate on current issues and through this process, raise the level of understanding among rural people as to the forces which determine their future, and to spread the philosophy upon which the NFU is founded.

2. The carrying out of adequate education and promotional programs in rural communities throughout Canada is a massive undertaking.

3. The first requirement must be a well-informed board of directors who thoroughly understand and support the philosophy of the organization, capable of translating convention policies into programs and actions. Members of the board should be thoroughly conversant with the policy statements endorsed by the delegates at National Convention and capable of providing leadership in their respective regions to explain and promote the objectives of the organization.

4. Education and organization, while being separate functions, must, of necessity, complement each other, as education without organization cannot be conducted effectively, and organization without education becomes meaningless. Competent research is essential to development of educational programs. Therefore, the research department must maintain close liaison with education and organization.

5. The key to success in education and organization is communications.

6. The communications department, through Union Farmer, newsletters, news releases, pamphlets, use of the news media, newspapers, radio and television, is responsible for the transmission of the philosophy, policies and programs of the NFU to members, to non-member farmers and to the public in general.

7. In order to achieve our aspirations to have the NFU recognized as the spokesperson for farm policy in Canada, well-informed and well-skilled leadership is required at every level of the organization who have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities pertaining to the position they hold in the organization and who are well-acquainted with the philosophy and policies which the NFU is promoting.

8. Therefore, the education and organization departments must design and conduct leadership development programs at every level; the national board of directors, advisory members, district executives, local executives and members in all districts.

9. Because no organization can function adequately with poor leadership skills, the NFU shall take advantage of every opportunity throughout the year to provide leadership training at all levels of the organization. Specifically, the Executive shall examine some potential training projects to be undertaken during the year. [Nov.’97]

10. The NFU Executive shall approach the National

Farmers Foundation for funding and establish a national leadership training program. [Dec.'98]

11. The executive being responsible for managing the affairs of the organization should obtain the services of well-qualified staff to head the various departments, give direction to department heads and co-ordinate their activities to ensure that the purposes of the organization are being well-served.

12. Following requests for group benefits insurance from the membership, the National Board has a mandate to implement a group benefits insurance plan. [Nov.'04]

13. The NFU National Board shall investigate the possibility and effects of gaining charitable status for the NFU. [Dec.'96]

14. The National Board of the NFU shall make a concerted effort to make our organization, the NFU, a grassroots organization as it was when it first was organized. [Nov.'99]

15. Because there is need to better communicate information with all parts of the NFU organization, elected officials and committee representatives should make written reports to the National Office and the appropriate Regional Coordinator after attending meetings. [Nov.'01]

16. The NFU shall develop and implement a strategic plan to improve the NFU website by making it as timely and interactive as possible in the areas of our campaigns and linkages. [Nov.'05]

17. The NFU National Office shall start a data base on Agricultural Think Tanks, their Executive members, and supporters. This information is to be posted on the NFU website. [Nov.'04]

18. The NFU shall endeavour to source Canadian-made promotional items where possible. [Nov.'08]

19. The Board of the NFU will explore and bring forward to the membership, options for other types of membership than are currently available for the NFU. This may include: group membership or sustainer membership options. [Nov.'18]

20. The National Board will apply for funds to provide training for board members & new board members with leadership training in mind. [Nov. '18]

21. The NFU will develop ways to support members' mental health and social connection, as well as adding counselling coverage to the NFU health benefits available. [Nov. '19]

22. The NFU will create an Indigenous Solidarity Strategy, involving Indigenous NFU members, and working across committees and Caucuses, to continue to reflect on and educate ourselves about Indigenous sovereignties, land justice and rematriation [Nov. 23]

23. The NFU will create an annual award or awards for best member written article(s) that get printed in a known Canadian news publication using criteria that includes but is not limited to: creativity, structure, and NFU collected data or campaign literature. [Nov. '24]

Funding:

1. The NFU opposes any legislated funding scheme for farm organizations without a democratic producer vote by secret ballot with a simple majority. [1994]

2. Numerous commodity check-offs are in place. Many producers are unaware of refund deadlines and procedures. Therefore the NFU shall:

   a) Establish a committee in each region to research check-off rebate procedures and deadlines. The NFU will then publish those rebate procedures and deadlines in its Union Farmer Newsletter. [Nov.'95]

   b) Work to have provisions for procedures to opt out of check-offs to avoid the necessity of asking for a refund. [Nov. '95]

3. If stable funding becomes law in New Brunswick, farmers should be given a choice of organizations, including the NFU, to which they can direct funds. [Nov.'97]

4. With the exception of check-off legislation that has been requested by a producer plebiscite, the following conditions shall apply: [Dec.'98]

   a) Participation in funding of any general farm organization or commodity group will be voluntary. [Dec.'98]

   b) The producer shall authorize or reject the funding of a general farm organization or

commodity group at the time of delivery of product to the market. [Dec.'98]

c) The producer shall be provided with an opportunity to fund a general farm organization or commodity group of his or her choice. [Dec.'98]

d) Any system of collection of refunding of producer check-off shall be user-friendly and shall not restrict a producer's ability to join or withdraw from any funded general farm organization or commodity group at any time of the year. [Dec.'98]

5. There are concerns that a potential conflict exists between the NFU's bank authorization program and Agricorp's farm registration system. Therefore, the NFU will work with all its Regions to ensure that farmers on the NFU Bank Authorization system are not inconvenienced by changes arising from provincial accreditation legislation. [Nov.'02]

"At the present time no one should remain silent, or give up; one must speak out and bestir oneself, not in order to triumph but in order to remain at one's post, whether with the major or the minority makes no difference. One must from time to time repeat what one believes in, proclaim what one agrees with and what one condemns..."

- Goethe (1749-1832)

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OUTLINE

(This guideline was adopted at the Fifth Annual Convention.)

NFU members embarking on collective bargaining programs must be made conscious of the costs that may be involved in initiating a program.

The general revenue of the NFU has distinct limitations on financing such ventures. Therefore, ways and means must be devised to raise initial financing.

Reliance on service fee for this purpose, while sound in theory, is not always practical, because if expected volume of business does not materialize, revenue from proposed check-offs is not forthcoming.

Some suggestions for raising initial capital:

1. Special fund-raising functions;
2. Members participating be required to invest risk capital under contractual arrangements.

The NFU in its collective bargaining programs must at no time take physical possession of the product or create owned agencies or subsidiaries to do the same.

The NFU in its collective bargaining programs at times must assume liability for the performance of members in honouring commitments, both in taking delivery and prompt payment for inputs and prompt delivery of specified grades of outputs.

In order to protect the organization from the effects of liability of its member or member's default in payments of delivery, or for any other reason, members participating in these programs must be required to make a deposit in cash of an amount deemed sufficient to assure performance, and such deposit be forfeited in case of the member defaulting on his contract.

Interpretation:

Farm union members putting together their requirements for a specific item and collectively bargaining for a price on total volume.

Objective:

To create a countervailing force capable of coping with price-setting and price-fixing practices employed by agribusiness firms, and to force efficiency in distribution of farm supplies, resulting in least-cost farm inputs.

Principle:

NFU involvement must be confined to bargaining on behalf of members. At no time should this principle be compromised at any level of the organization.

Collective bargaining should be confined to a few major farm inputs on which list price appears to be unnecessarily high.

Emphasis should be placed on education on collective bargaining procedures to establish cohesion and loyalty among members. Success should not be taken for granted, and breakdown of programs must be tolerated.

Some Rules to be Observed in Collective Bargaining for Inputs:

1. Each local in its collective bargaining is required to operate within the terms and conditions of the National Farmers Union Charter.

2. Collective bargaining should be just that -

confined to the bargaining function.

3. Costs of programs should be budgeted at all levels.

4. At no time should a local or any other level of the National Farmers Union take physical possession of any goods.

5. All locals and districts are required to build in a mandatory minimum service charge of 1 per cent on all collective bargaining contracts for inputs, payable to NFU central office for the purpose of developing a fund to finance a collective bargaining department on inputs at the national level. It is recommended that locals add additional service charge sufficient to cover the costs incurred at local and district levels.

6. Only National Farmers Union members should receive the benefits of collective bargaining.

7. Do not confine bargaining agreements with members to any specific name brands. This limits bargaining power. The only assurance should be quality guarantees.

8. Each local bargaining attempt must be sanctioned by central office before its implementation.

9. Locals shall not bargain on items already under a national program.

10. A local must not initiate a collective bargaining program without the consent of its membership.

11. In order to participate in National Farmers Union bargaining, members must go through their local collective bargaining committee for supplies.

12. All price lists must be kept confidential and confined to the bargaining committee chairman.

13. Orders shall be accompanied by a minimum deposit sufficient to ensure performance.
14. All goods bargained for must be paid for in cash at time of delivery.

15. Each local must have only one negotiator in bargaining and, therefore, only one spokesman.

<u>Model for Collective Bargaining</u>:

Inputs (Local Program):

Membership meeting decides by majority vote to bargain on input item(s).

Local executive directs collective bargaining to prepare budget for program (money and people). Local executive applies to central office for clearance and to ascertain program not in conflict with other activities.

Members should indicate maximum price for guidance of bargaining committee. Failure of this committee to secure supplies within the maximum price shall automatically conclude the program, and deposits will be refunded.

Bargaining committee, upon receiving clearance, makes survey of all members for commitment as to volume (deposits to be taken as pledge of good faith).

When volume is established, committee negotiator bargains best price and terms and conditions of delivery. All monies collected from members should be placed in a special bank account and all payments related to the program paid out of that account.

All programs must be conducted under the rules laid down by the National Board and Convention.

Seasonal Inputs, National, Regional:

Regional programs should have clearance from the National Executive. May be conducted from National Office or delegated by National Office to Regional Office.

Criteria for initiating a collective bargaining program for input item:

a) Level of member interest apparent;

b) Area of use of item;

c) Membership strength in area;

d) Potential savings;

e) Available resources (money and people).
Executive to establish collective bargaining department in central office.

Collective bargaining department to prepare budget - estimating cost and revenue subject to executive approval, acting within the general budget guidelines laid down by the board.

Locals should indicate maximum price for guidance of bargaining committee. Failure of the committee to secure supplies within the maximum price shall automatically conclude the program, and deposits

will be refunded.

Upon arrival, central office circulates locals for volume commitment from membership and initiates negotiation for supplies.

Locals survey member requirements and make firm commitment to central office.

When total volume is known, central office finalizes agreement with supplier as to price, terms and conditions and time of delivery.
Bargaining should be confined to quality products, not bargain products or inferior products.

Criteria for initiating a collective bargaining program:

a) Concentration of product (location);
b) Membership strength in the area;
c) Bargaining potential;
d) Available resources (money and people).

Model for Output Bargaining:

Board Responsibility:

a) Determine commodities for which programs are to be initiated;
b) Authorize the executive to strike bargaining committees on approved products subject to following board policy;
c) Total budget allocation to collective bargaining for all commodities;
d) Allocation of budget to each commodity. Budget to include research office staff, organization;

    i) Involvement of elected personnel;
    ii) Involvement of administrative personnel;
    iii) Total expenses;
    iv) Establish level of service fee.

Executive:

a) Draw up specific terms of reference for commodity bargaining committees based on board policy and budget;
b) Circulate terms of reference to board and to committee involved;
c) Terms of reference to include:
    i) Names of committee members;
    ii) Name of committee chairman;
    iii) Duties of the committee, working instructions and priorities;
    iv) Budget and administrative details;
    v) Deadlines, if any.

President:
Ex-officio member of each committee to receive reports from committee chairman, and convey all pertinent details of progress to executive and board members.

GENERAL:

Any and all policy decisions beyond those granted above such as clearance of contracts, decision to present a collective bargaining program to members and/or initiation of a holding action, naming of negotiators, signing of final agreements with the trade which have been ratified by members, or any other action associated with collective bargaining procedures, must be subject to clearance of the National Executive.

Board:
Decides to initiate program, authorizes executive to establish committee.

Executive:
Strikes committee, draws up terms of reference.

Committee:
Prepare budget, anticipated revenue and expenditure, subject to board guidelines and executive approval.

Research:
- Define area in which product is grown.
- Determine number of producers.
- Determine total volume of product.
- Determine number of member producers.
- Determine volume of product held by members.
- Determine who are buyers of product.
- Determine where markets are.
- Determine competition in market.
- Determine market requirements.

Application of Program:
Develop approved (by executive) contract between NFU and member, stating terms and conditions of volume of product.

Develop approved contract between NFU and buyer.

a) Have members sign contract;
b) Have non-members approached with a view to having them become members under contract;
c) Members establish a minimum price at which contracts will be activated.

Prepare a detailed analysis showing:
a) Volume of product contracted;
b) Percentage of product contracted;

c) Location of product contracted;

d) Number and location of member growers under contract;

e) Percentage of member growers under contract.

Negotiators:
Negotiate price and terms of condition of delivery with buyer.

General:

- If necessary, pro-rationing of member delivery opportunity must be agreed to and understood by contract holders.
- In budget preparations, growers are required to make a financial contribution (based on volume) to support the program and make provision for liability.
- All commodities under collective bargaining agreement with the union be subject to a service fee.