

## OHIO STATE GRANGE

### PRESENT POLICY: AGRICULTURE

1999 TO 2009

#### 1999 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Supports legislation saying that any farm use qualifies for determining the tax exemption for all-purpose vehicles since the purpose for such exemption is for farm use.
2. Supports Ohio State Grange setting up a booth for the Farm Science Review each year to let the public know that the grange is still an important part of the agricultural community.
3. The Ohio State Grange promote and work with other farm organizations to allow the amount of damage to crops from wildlife to be deducted from each farmer's state income tax. The dollar amount could be decided by a qualified inspector.
4. Supports Option A-1 in current dairy legislation. Currently, this provided in HR 1402.
5. Supports programs at the local, state and federal levels which will provide fair and equitable prices for farmers and their families in producing feed and food for the American consumer.
6. Opposes any bill that would put domestic septic system regulations in the state government's hands instead of local county health department's control.
7. Encourages legislators of Ohio to come up with more financial support for townships with large farming operations (CAFO) and continue to address road problems caused by these situations.
8. Encourages Ohio legislature to change the law to allow 26,000 gross weight- fifth wheel livestock trailers with dual axles – before a fuel sticker is necessary.
9. Opposed to the production and sale of genetically altered grain from termination technology.
10. Encourages lawmakers to pass legislation that would encourage an adjustment to the assessed on imported grain that takes advantage of the value of our dollar.
11. Supports legislation to transfer control of regulating and monitoring livestock operations solely to the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

#### 2000 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Urges supporting Ohio's participation in the Northeast Dairy Compact and supports assisting law makers with language of the Dairy Compact Bill.
2. Gives power to the Ohio State Grange Agriculture Taskforce the power to set Grange policy regarding agriculture issues which will be overseen by the State Grange Executive Committee Board.

3. Supports the modification and modernization of the Ohio Gasoline Tax Refund System by recommending that it be changed to the system presently employed by the IRS. That system requires no mailing of receipts (but is subject to audit as is Ohio's) and requires instead the annual filing of a tax refund form which applies a credit against your annual income.
4. Request that National Grange be aware of the increase in Internet trading of grain and to be aware that problems may arise, and supports National Grange addressing these issues.
5. Supports legislation that would regulate how close dairy factories can be built within a certain area, the number of cattle per mega-dairy and EPA monitoring dairy factories of 700 or less.
6. Supports urging National Grange to initiate or support federal legislation to remove federal fuel tax from fuel used to operate farm trucks. Also to end the government's so-so attitude, and stand up to big oil companies by helping develop alternative fuels which would compete with oil to hold prices in line; also requests that this resolution be acted on immediately because of spring planting.
7. Urges legislation to work to make agriculture districts good for 10 years everywhere and renewable as long as the farms in the district exist.
8. Urges National Grange to ask for legislation that would give the eastern farmer a more even-playing field so that he can compete, either charge what the services out west are worth or bring back some of the matching funds that would help the eastern farmer compete.
9. Urges the Department of Agriculture to investigate the price spread between farm and retail and advocate better prices for the small farm, such as the Farmers and Ranchers Fair Competition Act (S2411) that these farms might continue in business.
10. Urges the Ohio State Grange and National Grange to work with governmental agencies to insure that farmers be permitted to use the chemicals available to produce their crops profitably.

#### 2001 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Urges the Ohio State Grange and the Ohio Township Trustees Association lobby the Ohio State Legislature, to maintain the current line fence law and to strengthen it, giving the township trustees power to decide any issue involving line fence disputes, between adjoining landowners, (whether it be public or private, state or federal land) when they cannot agree, AND, supports the County Prosecutor be empowered to press charges in dispute to collect the fees and costs incurred by township trustees in deciding dispute, by having the costs put on the REAL ESTATE tax duplicate, and to urge the judicial system to be fair and impartial in their decisions on line fence disputes when they come before the court judges, AND the Ohio State Grange supports and enforce our present policy law of the line fence already on the books.
2. Supports dairy compacts for Ohio, and offers assistance with Ohio Senate and House of Representatives with language of the DAIRY COMPACT BILL.

3. Urges a high-level staff position and appropriate resources targeting the prevention and minimization of agro terrorism be appointed by Tom Ridge Head of the Office of Homeland Security in the USA as quickly as possible.

#### 2002 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Supports nominating Wib Justi to the Agriculture Hall of Fame.
2. Supports the United States Department of Agriculture's enforcement of the Packer and Stockman Act.
3. Supports requesting the postal service shipping packaged bees at a reasonable rate.
4. Supports registering all maple syrup producers and sellers and those who produce maple syrup for their own use would not be required to register.
5. Ohio State Grange goes on record regarding farming in Ohio be developing an agriculture policy statement that encourages Ohio farming and government incentive programs that assist the farmer in being a good steward of the land by using environmentally friendly methods. The Ohio State Grange also encourages development of farm programs that are investments into the future of farming in Ohio.
6. Opposes any relaxation of the 1960 sanctions against the dictatorship government of Cuba.

#### 2003 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Encourages all farmers to sign up as an agriculture district at the county auditor's office. This may help reduce nuisance lawsuits with all of the current housing coming into rural areas.
2. Goes on record opposing foreign ownership of farms above 35% of existing farm ground. It would depress prices of farm produce, livestock and grain. It would not be in the best interest of the farmers.
3. Urges an appeal to the eighth circuit court to carefully consider supporting the beef promotional and research programs.

#### 2004 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Supports maintaining funds for Ohio Agriculture Research and Development and urges continuous funding of Research and Development of Agricultural initiatives in Ohio.
2. Supports lobbying the Ohio Legislature to maintain and increase funds for the Ohio State University Extension Service.
3. Request that National Grange change their policy on GMO seeds that are patented and that require a tech fee. This would allow US farmers to save seed from GMO seed if they pay a tech fee per bushel that would go to the patent holder. These changes are covered in HB 4693, the seed availability and competition Act of 2004. This bill would also impose tariffs on grain that is imported to the US and is raised in countries where farmers do not pay tech fees. Support of this bill or similar bill in the future

would help to level the playing field for US farmers. NOTE: Farm Bureau is already in favor of these changes and National Grange signing on would make a united front.

4. Urges the Ohio General Assembly to enact a Degree of Master of Agriculture which would require the recipient to do the following: 1) Earn a high school degree plus two (2) years of college, 2) Serve an additional two (2) years at a state agricultural college, and 3) Serve a five (5) year internship on a working family farm. This will bring our future farmers onto a working farm and will ease the burden on senior citizen family farms.

5. Supports encouraging the Ohio Department of Agriculture and USDA's investigation of the practice of grain buyers adding dirt and water to bring the grain up to 15% moisture and 2% matter for standard corn.

6. Supports a cost share program between local farmers and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources or the USDA to help eradicate Multiflora Rose.

#### 2005 RESOLUTIONS:

1. TRANSFERRED TO TAXATION. Supports legislation that keeps CAUV Tax reduction in effect for all agricultural lands.

2. Supports legislation that would allow the farmer to recoup increases in fuel costs and put a cap on the per gallon cost of fuel that is used exclusively for agriculture.

3. Opposes the proposed FDA inspections of on farm feed sources such as, but not limited to, barns, pastures and feed storage facilities.

4. Supports legislation that would increase refineries and their capacity to increase fuel production.

5. COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: Supports the Dorgan-Snowe legislation that includes the system of registration, inspection and tracking of important drugs. Also supports legalization and importation of safe drugs from Canada and other countries.

#### 2006 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Supports Grange policy that is adverse to the listing of manure as a toxic waste.

#### 2007 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Promotes the passage of a bill in the Ohio legislature that would require the State of Ohio to purchase property at replacement value when eminent domain is utilized.

2. Urges the governmental jurisdictions of Ohio to do a better job controlling the weeds by mowing along the township, county and state highways before the weeds go to seed.

3. Supports legislation that would adopt the Tomato as the state fruit.

4. Encourages the State to increase funding for the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, to allow more farms to go into this program.

5. Continues to support funding of the farm Business Planning Analysis Program through the Ohio Department of Education and Cooperative Extension Service.

2008 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Supports patent limits (suggest 10 years) on genetically modified seed, and also that the Ohio State Grange support laws that would prevent lawsuits that are involved with cross pollination where acts of God are concerned.

2009 RESOLUTIONS:

1. Supports Issue 2, on the November 2009 ballot, that establishes the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board. Also supports lobbying for a position on this board to be represented by a grange member along with a position as one of the organizations representing agriculture in Ohio.