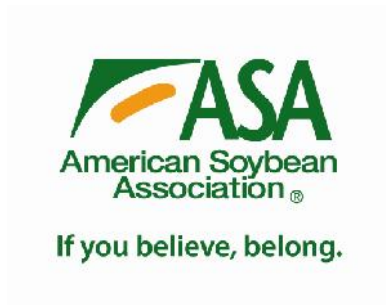


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2014 RESOLUTIONS

As Adopted by the
Voting Delegates at the
Annual Meeting of the Members
March 1, 2014

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I. EXPORTS, MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE POLICIES

1.0.00 Preamble

1.0.01 The American Soybean Association (ASA) recognizes that U.S. soybeans and soybean products must have fair access to world markets and must be competitive on price, quality and availability for markets.

1.0.02 Export development programs, led by Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development Program (FMD), have helped build an export market of a record \$140.9 billion for 2013. Soybeans, soybean products and soy fed animal products constitute (41%) of all U.S. agriculture exports. Studies confirm each billion dollars in exports generates 8,000 jobs and \$1.36 billion in additional economic activity, meaning agricultural exports create 1.1 million jobs and \$184 billion in additional economic activity. The public-private partnership among soy producers, the soy industry and the U.S. government creates a significant and positive boost to the U.S. economy.

1.1.00 Government Support of Market Development and Export Sales

1.1.01 The U.S. Administration shall take into account the impact of international exchange rates on U.S. export competitiveness.

1.1.02 ASA encourages Congress and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support the investment of farmer checkoff dollars to maximize funding for market development efforts and to respond quickly to opportunities in international trade.

1.1.03 ASA encourages that USB and QSSB's appropriate funds for international marketing to qualify and fully maximize USDA/FAS matching funds.

39
40 1.1.04 ASA supports efforts to improve U.S. competitiveness in global markets for soybeans
41 including whole, processed and high value products.
42
43 1.1.05 ASA urges Congress and the Administration to aggressively support P.L. 480 and
44 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) grant programs and initiatives to expand exports of U.S.
45 soybeans and soybean products.
46
47 1.1.06 ASA supports provision of sufficient export credit guarantees.
48
49 1.1.07 ASA commends the FAS of the USDA for work in expanding markets for U.S. soybeans,
50 whole and processed, as well as other U.S. agricultural products. ASA recommends that future
51 Federal funding for foreign market development be maintained at an annual rate
52 commensurate to inflation rates and increased marketing needs.
53
54 1.1.08 ASA supports all meat, poultry, dairy, and aquaculture export programs.
55
56 1.1.09 ASA encourages the development of common national and international standards for
57 maximum residual levels of animal health products in livestock trade internationally.
58
59 1.1.10 ASA shall continue to be the U.S. soybean growers' International Marketing Contractor
60 with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture
61 (USDA).
62
63 1.1.11 ASA supports the U.S. Administration to be WTO compliant with the Mandatory Country
64 of Origin Labeling (MCOOL) under USDA jurisdiction, where it is beneficial to the U.S. soybean
65 farmer that a voluntary country of origin labeling be supported as well.
66
67 1.2.00 Quality and Grading Standards for Soybeans and Soybean Products
68 1.2.01 ASA believes grain quality standards should be international in scope. These standards
69 affect the long-term future of the industry and have a major role in market efficiency, improved
70 quality and competition among sellers.
71
72 1.2.02 ASA supports a grading and marketing system that compensates producers for selling
73 clean, high quality soybeans. ASA supports beginning a process to determine if farm program
74 payments should include a premium/differential for higher quality attributes such as, but not
75 limited to, protein and oil.
76
77 1.2.03 ASA supports the following principles as long-term objectives in any revisions or
78 updating of present standards to:
79

- 80 • Define uniform and accepted descriptive terms to facilitate trade.
- 81 • Provide the information for the market to create incentives to improve the overall
82 quality of soybeans.
- 83 • Provide information for the end user to help determine end product yield and quality.
- Provide information for the farmer to help select varieties of greatest value.

- 84 • Require that grading factors have a definable economic value.
- 85 • Remove economic incentives that promote inefficiencies and undesirable practices.
- 86 • Encourage development of soybean standards that will set standard for U.S. soybeans at
- 87 1% foreign material (FM) in export and domestic markets. ASA will strive to implement
- 88 grain standards to assure the best product available for our customers. To fully
- 89 accomplish this task ASA must request the full cooperation of the grain traders in
- 90 adhering to these quality requirements for exported soybeans to the end user.
- 91 • Both public and commercial soybean breeders and producers should be represented on
- 92 committees formed to develop grain quality standards for soybeans and to cooperate
- 93 with other farm groups to set international standards for specialty grains.
- 94 • Soybeans should be purchased on dry matter content with a 13% moisture standard.

95

96 ASA will communicate to soybean farmers the implications of anticipated or actual changes to
97 grading standards.

98

99 1.2.04 ASA recommends that the USDA and soybean producers strive to ensure that quality
100 discounts are justifiable.

101

102 1.2.05 ASA encourages a study be undertaken by the appropriate governmental agencies,
103 farmer leaders and industry representatives to determine the need for additional intrinsic
104 testing capabilities, revised procedures, or other controls resulting from the rapid growth in
105 volume and number of differentiated identity preserved marketing's of enhanced trait
106 soybeans.

107

108 1.2.06 ASA encourages the development of a common national and international standard for
109 monitoring of calibrations for all grain analyzing technologies.

110

111 1.2.07 ASA supports a grading and marketing system that recognizes the intrinsic quality and
112 value of soybeans and to reward farmers who are capable of producing and marketing
113 soybeans of enhanced value to users.

114

115 1.2.08 ASA encourages strict enforcement of the handling of any treated seed to ensure it does
116 not get into any commercial shipment of U.S. soybeans.

117

118

119 1.3.00 Trade Policy

120 1.3.01 ASA supports the removal of barriers to international trade in soybeans, soybean
121 products, as well as livestock, poultry and aquaculture products and the prevention of the
122 establishment by other nations of barriers to the importation and consumption of U.S.
123 soybeans, soybean products, as well as livestock products.

124

125 1.3.02 ASA strongly encourages reinstatement of the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).

126

127 1.3.03 ASA strongly opposes the imposition of restrictions on the export of any and all
128 agricultural commodities including soybeans and soybean products, whether it is for supply,
129 national security, or foreign policy reasons. Any embargo, sanction, or other restriction on

130 exports of U.S. agricultural commodities for national security or foreign policy reasons shall
131 require a formal determination by the President and Congress that such action is supported and
132 joined by all other major world producers and exporters of affected commodities. Any action
133 would terminate unless the President re-certifies this determination on an annual basis.
134

135 Contract sanctity should be guaranteed for all foreign purchasers of U.S. agricultural
136 commodities. ASA calls on the President and Congress to revise legislation that exempts sales
137 of U.S. agricultural products from economic sanctions so that normal commercial credit can be
138 offered by U.S. entities. ASA shall increase its efforts to inform U.S. soybean producers and
139 consumers as to the scope and the ramifications of above said sanctions on U.S. farmers.
140

141 1.3.04 ASA favors the immediate removal of agricultural trade, financial and travel restrictions
142 for Cuba and urges Cuban eligibility for federally authorized checkoff activities, Foreign Market
143 Development (FMD), Market Access Programs (MAP), General Sales Manager (GSM) and other
144 credit programs and to work with the current administration on changing the terminology
145 through administrative action concerning credit. (IL)
146

147 1.3.05 ASA opposes the establishment of restrictions by the United States on the importation of
148 fairly traded goods that may precipitate retaliation against the export of U.S. soybeans, soybean
149 based products and livestock products by other nations or which would economically burden
150 U.S. soybean farmers.
151

152 1.3.06 ASA strongly supports achievement of a Level Playing Field trading basis for oilseeds,
153 oilseed products and plant-based oil and products in future negotiations. The Level Playing
154 Field approach is a multilateral phase-out of all trade distorting export subsidies, including
155 differential export taxes, and all tariff and non-tariff barriers to oilseeds, oilseeds product and
156 plant-based oil and product imports.
157

158 1.3.07 The Blair House Agreement (BHA) sets a WTO-bound limit on subsidized oilseed
159 production in the EU, and ASA insists on strict enforcement of the EU's commitments. The U.S.
160 has the reasonable expectation that (a) the subsidized area planted to oilseeds will not exceed
161 the BHA level of about 4.9 million hectares plus the BHA-consistent area of new EU members
162 and (b) oilseed production on set aside for industrial use will not exceed 1 million tons on a
163 soybean meal equivalent basis. As the EU implements changes in its agricultural policies and
164 implements new "energy crop" payments to encourage the growing of energy crops, including
165 oilseeds, the U.S. Government must insist that the EU be in compliance with its obligations.
166 The U.S. must insist that the EU policies, including single-form payments, energy crop
167 payments, and biodiesel tax incentives, do not nullify or impair the zero-tariff binding for
168 oilseeds the EU granted the U.S. in previous trade negotiations.
169

170 1.3.08 ASA insists that the Federal government ensure the countries that sign the WTO
171 Agreement and Free Trade Agreements adhere to the provisions of these agreements.
172

173 1.3.09 ASA opposes any proposal to merge the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)
174 with other trade agencies. ASA believes that USTR should remain an independent agency

175 within the Executive Office of the President, focusing on trade negotiations, trade agreements
176 and trade enforcement.

177
178 1.3.10 ASA insists the office of U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) adhere to commitments made
179 by the Administration to ASA preceding Senate ratification of WTO. These commitments
180 include promoting domestic markets for soybean products.

181
182 1.3.11 ASA insists USDA, the U.S. Trade Representative and any other relevant agencies should
183 be more aggressive in investigations and pursuing complaints against countries whose tariff
184 structure and/or non-tariff barriers may violate said countries WTO and FTA obligations.

185
186 1.3.12 ASA strongly urges the U.S. Trade Representative to initiate a WTO complaint against the
187 EU's discriminatory and non-science based traceability and labeling regulations.

188
189 1.3.13 ASA supports comprehensive WTO negotiations as the best means to increase
190 worldwide incomes and reduce trade barriers to soy and livestock products. ASA believes that
191 bilateral or regional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations should be focused toward those
192 countries that represent significant commercial markets for U.S. soybeans and products,
193 livestock products, and agricultural exports in general.

194
195 1.3.14 ASA strongly recommends that the WTO negotiations encompass all sectors as a
196 comprehensive single undertaking. This means that all aspects of the negotiations should be
197 included and implemented simultaneously in order to get the best results for U.S. agriculture,
198 (i.e, No "early harvest" during the negotiations)

199
200 1.3.15 ASA supports substantial improvements in market access for soybeans and soybean
201 products, including livestock, poultry and aquaculture products, as the top priority of the DOHA
202 Development Round negotiating under the WTO.

203
204 1.3.16 ASA believes that any new WTO agreement reducing trade-distorting (i.e., "amber box")
205 domestic support must reflect the extent to which market access is increased in developing and
206 developed countries through reductions in tariffs and other measures.

207
208 1.3.17 ASA strongly supports maintaining the "de minimus" exemption of product and non-
209 product specific support from reductions required in trade-distorting domestic programs.

210
211 1.3.18 ASA strongly opposes any caps on "green box" domestic support policies that do not, or
212 only minimally, distort production or trade.

213
214 1.3.19 ASA strongly supports establishing a rules-based system for disciplining the use of export
215 credits and similar government supported export financing programs.

216
217 1.3.20 ASA strongly supports defining Differential Export taxes as export subsidies that would
218 be subject to discipline and elimination in a Doha Round agreement.

219

220 1.3.21 ASA strongly supports the elimination of differential export taxes for oilseeds, oilseed
221 products, and plant-based oil and products.
222

223 1.3.22 ASA opposes including disciplines on food assistance programs in the WTO negotiations.
224

225 1.3.23 ASA strongly opposes allowing countries to self-designate as “developing countries” for
226 the purpose of obtaining special and differential treatment under the WTO. ASA supports the
227 establishment of objective criteria for determining if a country is eligible to claim special and
228 differential treatment overall or for certain sectors.
229

230 1.3.24 ASA strongly opposes exempting government supported domestic transportation and
231 marketing subsidy programs in developing countries from disciplines under the WTO.
232

233 1.3.25 ASA strongly opposes including in the WTO agreement the precautionary principle or
234 other food safety concerns that are not science based that could be used as a justification for
235 restricting market access.
236

237 1.3.26 ASA supports increasing funding of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to a level
238 adequate to stabilize the economies of countries that are major markets for U.S. soybean and
239 soybean product exports, providing these countries adopt the necessary fiscal policy to correct
240 the conditions.
241

242 1.3.27 ASA supports trade contracts that protect buyers and sellers, but does not support
243 unrealistic specifications that are designed to be non-tariff trade barriers.
244

245 1.3.28 ASA supports value-added export programs that include U.S. soybeans and soybean
246 products in their production or composition to meet the changing needs of the market.
247

248 1.3.29 ASA encourages that resources be utilized within USDA to develop a permanent cadre of
249 veterinarian and plant pathologists to serve as trained negotiators whose sole mission is to
250 resolve animal and plant health sanitary/phytosanitary trade barriers detrimental to the export
251 of U.S. meat and animal products, and U.S. grains and oilseeds.
252

253 1.3.30 ASA encourages the American Oilseed Coalition (AOC) to continue the analysis and
254 development of strategies for trade agreements, including WTO and Free Trade agreements
255 determining how they impact the soybean producer and industry, and to report findings back
256 to state and national soybean organizations on a timely basis.
257

258 1.3.31 ASA strongly supports negotiation of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Trans-Pacific
259 Partnership (TPP) countries and other countries that may join the negotiations in the future,
260 which may provide new market access opportunities for U.S. soybean, soybean products,
261 livestock products, and new soybean based products.
262

263 1.3.32 ASA supports “WTO-plus” sanitary and phytosanitary provisions that underscore the
264 importance of harmonized, science-based regulations that are trade facilitative and fully
265 enforceable.

266

267 1.3.33 ASA strongly opposes any product exclusions from Free Trade Agreements (FTA) on the
268 grounds that they serve as negative precedents for countries seeking to exclude soy or livestock
269 products.

270 1.3.34 ASA urges the Federal Government to take every possible action to prevent and mitigate
271 the impact of any and all economically significant diseases of livestock and poultry.

272

273 1.3.35 ASA insists Congress and the Administration work tirelessly to ensure that any food
274 traceability laws and/or U.S. seed companies and shipper's contracts not transfer financial
275 liability onto U.S. producers due to grain shipments containing unapproved GMO grain traits.

276

277 1.3.36 ASA urges the soybean industry to work to ensure that financial liability for soybean
278 products that contain unintended and unapproved traits in soybeans and products to be
279 appropriated to the responsible parties.

280

281 1.3.37 ASA continues to strongly support free trade agreements as adopted without
282 addendums, and supports adopting future trade agreements without social and political
283 requirements being the basis for acceptance. Furthermore, ASA supports free trade
284 agreements that help increase soybean and meat exports.

285

286 1.3.38 ASA recognizes the need for reasonable seed tolerance levels that allow for movement
287 of seed within international trade. ASA believes that such tolerances, however, must be linked
288 directly with accompanying tolerances for the resulting commodity products.

289

290 1.3.39 ASA strongly opposes greenhouse gas restrictions or any other greenhouse gas
291 regulations that would negatively affect the profitability of the U.S. soybean and livestock
292 farmer.

293

294 1.3.40 ASA opposes currency legislation or any action by Congress to unilaterally regulate the
295 value of foreign currencies. ASA believes that currency legislation would create retaliatory
296 actions that would negatively affect soybean trade. Instead, ASA supports an approach by the
297 U.S. that engages the international community in its efforts to address global foreign exchange
298 policies.

299

300 1.3.41 ASA supports negotiation of a comprehensive Transatlantic Trade and Investment
301 Partnership (TTIP) Agreement with the European Union that provides meaningful market access
302 for exports of U.S. soybean products and that addresses trade barriers, including current EU
303 biotechnology policies (delayed approval of traits, compliance by EU Member States with EU
304 laws and regulations, and mandatory biotech labeling). The TTIP must also address the EU
305 Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and the proposed Ecological Focus Area Program that would
306 support soybean and high protein crop production in the EU. [MOVE AFTER 1.3.31]

307

308 1.3.42 ASA supports efforts to improve the accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the
309 U.S. Government's agencies for engaging importing countries to resolve market access issues
310 for all products in the soybean value chain including red meat by enhancing communication and
311 coordination among the agencies with responsibility for agricultural trade.

312
313
314

315 1.4.00 Assistance to Developing Nations

316 1.4.01 ASA urges U.S. and multilateral institutions to consider long-term environmental
317 consequences and benefits when allocating funds to developing nations for projects that could
318 result in large-scale land clearing or deforestation. ASA strongly opposes U.S. tax dollars being
319 used by American and multilateral institutions and universities to fund competition for U.S.
320 soybeans and soybean products.

321

322

323

324 1.4.03 ASA urges the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to continue its policy
325 of not funding programs that promote foreign production resulting in the exports of soybeans
326 and soybean products and would encourage that this policy be extended to crops which
327 compete with soybeans and soybean products. ASA encourages USAID to increase funding of
328 programs that expand international use of soybeans and soybean products and encourages
329 USAID to support ASA in developing and implementing such programs.

330

331 1.4.04 The U.S. soybean farmers recognize that agricultural development in Least Developed
332 Countries (LDC's) can help drive economic development worldwide. U.S. soybean farmers
333 stand ready to work with participants in the soybean value chain targeting subsistence farmers
334 to improve nutrition to their community, raise themselves from poverty and develop strong
335 local markets providing such assistance complies with current agricultural policy and law
336 (Bumpers Amendment of 1986).

337

338 1.4.05 ASA supports development of nutrition and devastating disease centers at interested
339 land grant institutions for the purpose of linking opportunities and resources related to
340 improving nutrition in populations suffering from diseases of pandemic and epidemic
341 proportions.

342

343 1.4.06 ASA supports the Millennium Challenge Account for developing nations, provided that its
344 efforts are consistent with resolutions 1.4.01 through 1.4.03, and that the administration use
345 U.S. food and agricultural products to help meet development and food security targets set for
346 Millennium Challenge beneficiaries.

347

348 1.4.07 ASA supports full funding for the Cochran Program.

349

350

351 1.5.00 Developing Countries Debt

352 1.5.01 ASA encourages the U.S. government to seek a solution to developing countries debt
353 that does not adversely impact the U.S. soybean industry.

354 ASA feels the solutions for these countries should include:

- 355 • Using a greater share of their oilseed production for domestic consumption.
- 356 • Developing their domestic economy.
- 357 • Using conservation and environmental practices that prevent the degradation of their
358 soil resources through nutrient mining and soil erosion.
- 359 • Preserving rain forests.

- Funding nutrition programs including women, infant, children and/or school feeding, for their countries' population.

1.6.00 Government Export Promotion Programs

1.6.01 Foreign Market-Development Cooperator (FMD) Program

ASA strongly supports the FMD Program. FMD is a successful public/private partnership which is a cooperative, cost-share program between private industry groups that represent farmers and ranchers and the U.S. Government. ASA urges Congress to fund the FMD Program at a level of not less than \$50 million per year.

1.7.00 Market Access Program (MAP)

1.7.01 ASA supports continuation of MAP at current levels, or above, which will continue to increase exports, secure new and current markets and support the Administration's export goals under the National Export Initiative. Further MAP and FMD represent some of the highest returns on investment for soybean producers are currently green box, and should remain a high priority in the next Farm Bill, and in yearly appropriations bills.

1.7.02 In order to provide future stability to FMD and MAP funding levels, ASA should encourage FAS to establish an incentive based funding structure where by funding would be increased as exports rise.

1.8.00 Export Credit Guarantee Programs

ASA supports continuation of General Sales Manager (GSM) 102 export credit guarantee programs at a minimum funding level of \$4 billion and at the maximum amount necessary to fully utilize the program maintaining the tenor of up to twenty-four months.

- Allow extension of revolving credit lines to private entities as well as foreign countries in order to make these programs more flexible while reducing USDA's risks;
- Relax the "creditworthiness" determination that must be made in operating these programs by allowing the Secretary of Agriculture to consider the longer-term economic growth potential of a country, and economic policy reforms that are being instituted unilaterally or in conjunction with international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank;
- Implement an infrastructure loan guarantee program that would allow GSM 102 guarantees to be used for specific import-related infrastructure projects in foreign countries that would result in increased U.S. agricultural exports to those countries;
- Allow the Secretary to permit, as appropriate, U.S. produced agricultural commodities that may contain less than 100% U.S. content to be covered under the programs.

1.9.00 Food Aid and International Assistance

1.9.01 The ASA recognizes that the vast majority of the world's population, and its highest growth rates, are in the developing world. Many of those people suffer from hunger and malnutrition, as well as poverty and low levels of economic development. Food aid plays a critical role in mitigating these conditions; in fact, many of our best export markets were at one time food aid recipients. The ASA and the product we represent, soy, can play a role in

406 strengthening food aid, fortifying diets and achieving the complementary goals of economic
407 development and market growth.

408

409 1.9.02 ASA strongly supports uses of food in emergency and development assistance. ASA
410 opposes budgetary reductions in developmental food aid to compensate for emergency
411 shortfalls. ASA supports PL480 programs and total Title II budget at a level of \$1.5 billion.

412

413 1.9.03 ASA strongly supports all supplemental appropriations bills that will fill in gaps in food
414 assistance and will address the following four points:

- 415 • compensates for shortfalls in food aid budget;
- 416 • provides food for additional emergency needs;
- 417 • restores development assistance programs that were cut to divert food to emergencies;
418 and
- 419 • replenishes the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust, which is a backup reserve to provide
420 food for emergency needs.

421

422 1.9.04 ASA supports the continued funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for
423 Education and Child Nutrition Program at no less than \$200 million, the Food for Progress
424 program at no less than \$200 million and supports seeking additional funding from other U.S.
425 and G-8 sources.

426

427 1.9.05 ASA urges the U.S. Government to continue funding for global HIV/AIDS relief as well as
428 incorporating nutrition in its programs. ASA is committed to work through WISHH on allocating
429 funds and/or food through government food procurement to include soy protein in the diets of
430 people affected by and/or infected with HIV/AIDS.

431

432 1.9.06 ASA is committed to developing relationships with commercial entities in the private
433 sector to address and under-nutrition. WISHH will work with U.S. and developing world-based
434 companies to use soy as a supplement to local foods and will reach out to both food processing
435 companies and manufacturing companies to develop soy fortified, nutritious products.

436

437 1.9.07 ASA commends the Administration for its support of biotechnology and U.S. farmers'
438 access to this important tool. ASA calls on the USDA and other agencies to minimize the threat
439 of ill-conceived regulations that are hampering trade with the developing countries and even
440 blocking shipments of food aid. Equally, the Administration should maximize the understanding
441 in the developing countries that biotechnology can help address environmental challenges,
442 augment nutrition and improve food security.

443

444 1.9.08 ASA strongly recommends the judicious use of soybeans or soybean products in food aid
445 programs should not be precluded automatically by rigid stocks-to-use ratios. A minimum level
446 of soybeans and soybean products should always be available for humanitarian assistance.

447

448 1.9.09 ASA believes strongly that in-kind food aid remains the most sustainable tool in the food
449 aid toolbox. Local and regional purchases can be a useful tool for addressing global food
450 insecurity, but they should work in coordination with current food aid programs. In-kind

451 donations should remain intact and funding for local purchases should come from the
452 appropriate foreign assistance budget.

453

454 1.9.10

455 ASA opposes cash grant humanitarian assistance that replaces in-kind food aid, however, when
456 cash assistance is used, it shall avoid market disruption, be transparent, require strict
457 accountability, and serve to build resiliency in areas of continued food insecurity. (IN/OH/MI)

458

459 II. DOMESTIC ISSUES AND FARM POLICIES

460

461 2.0.00 Preamble

462 2.0.01 The American Soybean Association (ASA) supports individual freedom and private
463 initiative through the competitive enterprise system. ASA supports achieving a balanced
464 federal budget and reducing the national debt through a comprehensive approach to deficit
465 reduction that includes all entitlement programs and discretionary spending. Reductions in the
466 cost of agriculture-related programs should be proportionate.

467

468 2.0.02 ASA supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as the official governmental
469 voice of agriculture.

470

471 2.0.03 ASA recommends that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) farmer elected county committee
472 system be maintained at the county level, be comprised of elected operators/producers and
473 have more authority on decisions at the local level and that county offices be structured to
474 improve efficiency and provide expedient delivery of services to soybean farmers. If county
475 offices are combined with an adjoining county and boards are merged, the make-up of the
476 boards should be based upon agricultural acres of the two counties. (OH)

477

478 2.0.04 ASA recommends that all food safety, feed safety and environmental regulations
479 concerning agriculture be coordinated with the USDA.

480

481 2.0.05 ASA supports the important work of USDA Rural Development to improve the quality of
482 life and increase economic opportunity in Rural America. ASA encourages the long term
483 funding of the grant, loan, and loan guarantee programs administered by USDA Rural
484 Development.

485

486 2.0.06 ASA believes in the need to continue maintaining expanding, and promoting markets for
487 identity preserved and specialty soybeans or soybean products. ASA also supports premium
488 structures that reflect the additional costs of identity preservation.

489

490 2.0.07 ASA believes input benefits and economic impact on farmers and consumers should be
491 considered in laws and regulations designed to protect endangered species. We favor
492 exempting man-made agricultural structures from the Endangered Species Act.

493

494 2.0.08 ASA supports safe food products for domestic and foreign consumers. ASA understands
495 that a safe food supply is vital to the people of the U.S. and the world. Therefore, ASA supports
496 the maximum penalty under law on persons or groups found guilty of terrorist acts that could
497 affect the food supply or the environment. Farmers should be held harmless from liability due
498 to terrorist activities on their operations.

499

500 2.0.09 ASA opposes the actions of HSUS, PETA and all other radical activists groups whose
501 efforts are to destroy American agriculture. ASA also supports education of the public as to the
502 actions and agenda of these groups.

503

504 2.0.10 ASA strongly urges the Administration to act on the request by six members of Congress
505 to investigate the tax exempt status of HSUS. It is ASA's position that HSUS's lobbying activities
506 violate the 501(c)(3) exemption.

507

508 2.0.11 ASA supports the concept of tort reform as it relates to claims against agricultural
509 producers.

510

511 . (MO)

512

513 2.0.13 ASA supports a soy or bio-based buying preference for federal, state and local
514 government entities.

515

516 2.0.14 ASA recommends farmer representation and participation on all advisory, regulatory and
517 planning boards that affect agriculture at local, state and national levels.

518

519 2.0.15 ASA recommends that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) be the primary administrative
520 agency for USDA farm programs.

521

522 2.0.16 ASA recommends increased governmental funding to improve the antiquated
523 information technology (IT) system of the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

524

525 2.0.17 ASA supports an adequate legal work force for agriculture production and processing.
526 ASA urges Congress to pursue and quickly implement policies that assure an adequate
527 workforce in all sectors of agriculture, and be implemented in a minimally disruptive way.

528

529 2.0.18 ASA supports legislation that mandates greater oversight of regulatory agencies by
530 Congressional bodies.

531

532 2.0.19 ASA recognizes that child safety is important. However, ASA opposes the Department of
533 Labor's proposing changes that limit the types of work minors could perform in agriculture.

534

535 2.0.20 ASA supports the process of streamlining the H2A work visa program.

536

537 2.0.21 ASA recognizes farm safety is an important issue. However, ASA opposes attempts by
538 the Department of Labor to expand the jurisdiction of the Occupational Health and Safety
539 Authority to include farms with less than 10 employees. (OH)

540

541 2.0.22 ASA supports the implementation of the Sustainability Assurance Protocol and Soy
542 Export Sustainability LLC to promote the sustainability of U.S. soybeans to buyers worldwide.

543

544 **2.0.23** ASA strongly urges USDA to ensure the timely publication of agency reports, regardless
545 of government status, to prevent adverse market effects. (ND)

546

547 **2.0.24** ASA strongly urges USDA to provide oversight and take all appropriate measures to
548 improve and ensure the security of all agency reports, no matter the transmission mode, before
549 their uniform release. (ND)

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2.1.00 Domestic Market Promotion

2.1.01 ASA recognizes the U.S. as the largest single market for soybeans. ASA places the expansion and maintenance of this market as a high priority.

2.1.02 ASA favors the promotion and use of registered soybean product logos to stimulate consumer awareness, thus encouraging expanded U.S. production, manufacturing and employment.

2.1.03 ASA encourages the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA) to work with grain and feed handlers and other industries to use soybean oil to control dust. ASA urges the insurance industry to consider rate reductions for those using soybean oil dust control systems.

2.1.04 ASA favors expanded promotion and research for new uses of soybeans and soybean products.

2.1.05 ASA opposes the inclusion of soybeans in any national or international strategic grain reserves.

2.2.00 Competition Policy

2.2.01 ASA urges strengthening the enforcement rules of antitrust laws and the Agricultural Fair Practices Act to protect the economic interests of America's farmers that may be affected by vertical integration and consolidation.

2.2.02 ASA supports the following changes to antitrust statutes and regulations that will further protect the sellers of commodities from anti-competitive behavior:

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) should ensure that proposed cooperative and/or vertical integration arrangements, if implemented, should continue to maintain independent producers access to markets;
- USDA should be more active in giving authority to review and provide recommendations to the DOJ on agribusiness mergers and acquisitions;
- A high level position should be maintained within the DOJ to enforce antitrust laws in agriculture;
- USDA should be empowered to investigate mergers, consolidation or concentration of agricultural input suppliers and processors for antitrust or anti-competitive activities.

2.2.03 ASA urges Congress to review antitrust laws that may need to be brought up to date with scientific and business developments due to ongoing consolidations of seed and chemical companies.

2.2.04 ASA opposes mergers or acquisitions that could create a monopoly of production, production inputs and/or marketing of soybeans and products or otherwise reduce competition and/or increase production costs that would lead to lower income opportunities for soybean farmers.

596

597 2.2.05 ASA supports enabling trait providers and seed companies to access and use the data
598 package of a patented biotech trait through agreements and established procedures for the
599 purpose of preparing to register and commercialize generic versions of the trait after patent
600 expiration. ASA supports efforts by the private sector or, if necessary, the federal government
601 that facilitates this process.

602

603

604 2.3.00 Contract Production

605 2.3.01 ASA recognizes that contract production is a factor in poultry and hogs, and that
606 specialty and designer soybeans will become a larger share of the soybeans we grow.

607 Therefore, ASA supports:

- 608 • Contracts written in plain language
- 609 • Farmer lien priority in the event the owner of the commodity files bankruptcy
- 610 • A 72 hour walk away provision for producers on production contracts

611

612 ASA opposes confidentiality clauses and arbitration as the only remedy in case of a dispute.

613

614 2.3.02 ASA advocates production contracts that allow for producers' liability to end when the
615 first purchaser accepts the product.

616

617 2.3.03 ASA recommends that farmers work together in cooperative ventures to gain increased
618 access in a vertically integrated market environment.

619

620 ASA supports a voluntary national livestock traceability system in the U.S.

621

622

623 2.4.00 Soybean Policy

624 2.4.01 ASA will support a soybean program that:

- 625 ▪ Provides no price floor to competitors of U.S. soybeans;
- 626 ▪ Discourages government-owned stocks;
- 627 ▪ Opposes all set-asides;
- 628 ▪ Supports a marketing loan at a level that enables soybeans to compete effectively with
629 other major crops;
- 630 ▪ Provides income protection for U.S. soybean farmers;
- 631 ▪ Assists farmers to better manage risk;
- 632 ▪ Allows equitable profit opportunities;
- 633 ▪ Provides planting flexibility necessary for U.S. soybean farmers to base their decisions on
634 market signals and respond to environmental and conservation concerns. Planting
635 flexibility should be allowed on all cropland acres, without loss of benefits, including income
636 support payments and loan eligibility; and
- 637 ▪ Allow producers who deliver their crops to retain beneficial interest until the transaction
638 price is agreed upon.

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640 2.4.02 ASA opposes Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan origination fees. The CCC should
641 not assess check-off fees on soybeans under loan unless they are forfeited to the CCC.

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2.4.03 ASA supports equitable treatment of soybean producers in the development and implementation of federal disaster and low price assistance programs.

2.4.04 ASA is opposed to a uniform national LDP rate.

2.4.05 ASA urges the Administration, the Federal Reserve and Congress to determine and address the detrimental effects of international currency exchange rates on U.S. soybean competitiveness.

2.4.06 ASA supports non-recourse marketing loans.

2.4.07 ASA supports amending the restriction on planting fruits and vegetables on program crop base acres to allow producers to preserve base history on acres planted to these crops while not being eligible for direct and counter-cyclical payments, except under the current exemption for double-cropping practices.

2.4.08 ASA supports programs that do not distort planting decisions and which are WTO compliant.

2.4.09 ASA strongly opposes efforts to require producers to lose beneficial interest in their commodities at the time they receive a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) or Marketing Loan Gain under the marketing loan program. ASA also strongly opposes proposals that would discriminate against planting soybeans by exempting crops that compete for acres with soybeans from the required loss of beneficial interest based on how these crops are marketed, or for any other reason.

2.4.11 ASA opposes the forced diversion of any funds from one checkoff going to another checkoff without producer board approval. (IL)

2.4.12 ASA supports the use of federal crop insurance records and/or production evidence from three similar surrounding farms as an acceptable form of proving yields for federal farm programs.

2.4.12 ASA strongly supports the Agriculture Act of 2014, including improvements in the Federal crop insurance program, and opposes reopening this legislation. (MO)

2.4.13 ASA encourages all first purchasers of soybeans to use the words “checkoff investment” when noting the deduction on payments and settlements. (MN)

688
689 2.5.00 Farm Program Payments
690 2.5.01 ASA opposes limitations which impose means testing on Federal farm payments and
691 loans made to U.S. farmers. ASA opposes restricting eligibility for marketing loan gains or LDP's.
692
693 2.5.02 ASA supports full funding of income support payments provided under farm legislation.
694
695 2.5.03 ASA supports fair and equitable price determinations for LDP payments.
696
697 2.5.04 ASA supports soybeans grown for non-traditional uses for all payments for which
698 commodity soybeans are eligible.
699
700 2.5.05 ASA supports individual eligibility of a producer and spouse for equal program benefits.
701
702 (IL)
703
704 2.5.07 ASA supports the definition of actively engaged in farming in effect under the 2002 Farm
705 Bill.
706
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709 2.6.00 USDA Budget Accounting
710 2.6.01 ASA favors expressing farm program costs as net costs rather than total costs in the
711 federal budget.
712
713 2.6.02 ASA supports Congressional review of budget forecasting by the Congressional Budget
714 Office (CBO).
715
716
717 2.7.00 Transportation
718 2.7.01 ASA supports efforts by the Soy Transportation Coalition to address issues affecting the
719 marketing and transport of oilseeds, grains, and their products.
720
721 2.7.02 ASA supports directing federal infrastructure funding toward improving commercial
722 transportation, including locks and dams and rural roads and bridges.
723
724 2.7.03 ASA opposes any new labeling of soy oil that would restrict its current transportation
725 status.
726
727 2.7.04 ASA supports an infrastructure funding framework that allows for public and private
728 investment in the U.S. commercial transportation system to ensure U.S. soybeans and soybean
729 products will be delivered to domestic and international markets in a timely and cost effective
730 manner.
731
732 [MOVED – NEW 2.8.06]

733 **2.7.05** ASA encourages the Federal Aviation Administration to meet their September 2015
734 deadline for providing reasonable regulations for the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in
735 production agriculture. Further, these regulations should not encumber the adoption or use of
736 this valuable technology in production agriculture. (IL)

737
738

739 2.8.00 Waterways Transportation & Infrastructure

740 2.8.01 ASA urges the Department of Transportation (DOT), the U.S. Department of Agriculture
741 (USDA), other agencies, and private industry to ensure an infrastructure allowing U.S. soybeans
742 to be delivered to domestic and international markets in a timely and cost-effective manner.

743

744 2.8.02 ASA supports maintenance and improvements of the U.S. waterway and navigation
745 systems and that ASA be actively involved with other groups to improve the Mississippi River
746 Waterway System.

747

748 2.8.03 ASA believes that monies deposited into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund should be
749 used for new construction and major rehabilitation of navigation infrastructure. ASA supports
750 additional and alternative financing measures to supplement the Inland Waterways Trust Fund
751 (IWTF) to provide sufficient funds for new construction, major rehabilitation, and maintenance
752 needs. ASA supports additional and alternative financing measures to provide a steadier and
753 more reliable funding stream that is needed to reduce U.S. Army Corps of engineers project
754 costs and timeframe for completion.

755

756 2.8.04 ASA urges the Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and
757 other responsible agencies to expedite the process of rebuilding and reconstructing flood
758 control structures. ASA opposes proposed Master Water Control Manuals that would cause
759 seasonal flooding or restricted barge traffic on the nation's waterways. ASA opposes any
760 diversion of river flows that would adversely impact barge transportation.

- 761 • ASA supports Missouri River master plan alternatives that keep navigation and inland
762 drainage as top priorities.
- 763 • ASA supports keeping all river navigation systems important to agriculture open for use.
- 764 • ASA supports maintaining full funding for all river navigation systems.
- 765 • ASA supports legislation that defunds Missouri River Authorized Purpose Study (MRAPS)
- 766 • ASA opposes the actions by FEMA to expand a flood plain designation. [MOVED FROM
767 2.8.12]

768

769 2.8.05 ASA urges Congress to adopt legislation to minimize dock strikes that interrupt the flow
770 of soybeans and other farm commodities to our overseas customers.

771

772 2.8.06 ASA supports the maintenance and improvement of river locks and dams which maintain
773 water-shipping levels in a manner that sustains barge traffic and does not inhibit agricultural
774 production. We believe available funding should first be directed toward maintaining and
775 preserving the existing system. If additional funding becomes available we support the
776 construction of new 1,200 foot lock chambers at Lock and Dam 20-25 on the Upper Mississippi
777 River and LaGrange and Peoria on the Illinois River along with the modification and expansion
778 of other structures and facilities that increase transportation efficiency. (IA)

779
780 2.8.07 ASA supports the further development of West Coast Shipping of Midwest soybeans and
781 soy products.
782 2.8.08 The Jones Act should be amended so as to allow the shipment on the lowest cost vessels
783 of U.S. agricultural commodities from one U.S. port to another. ASA also supports an
784 exemption for bulk agricultural commodities from the Jones Act.
785
786 2.8.09 ASA supports the aggressive pursuit of container shipping of soybeans and soybean
787 products.
788
789 2.8.10 ASA supports the free movement of goods both domestically and internationally. ASA
790 urges the U.S. government to be vigilant against any undue restrictions by foreign entities.
791
792 2.8.11 ASA urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Congress to take actions necessary to
793 ensure that sufficient funding is provided for dredging all ports and waterways including the
794 Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway, to maintain the maximum authorized navigable
795 depth to ensure the free movement of soybeans and soybean product domestically and
796 internationally. (IN/OH/MI)
797
798 [MOVED TO 2.8.04]
799
800 2.8.13 ASA supports legislation to require that all funds collected for the Harbor Maintenance
801 Trust Fund (HMTF) are used for the intended purposes of waterways dredging and port
802 maintenance.
803 2.8.14 Producers should be made whole when the government chooses to intentionally flood
804 farmland and farm property
805
806 2.8.15 ASA urges the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE) to recognize flood control and
807 navigation as their top priority. ASA also urges that their funding reflects and supports these
808 priorities.
809
810 [SENT TO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR REVIEW]
811
812 2.9.00 Railroad
813 2.9.01 ASA supports legislative efforts to promote increased competition in the rail industry to
814 foster better service and lower rates.
815
816 2.9.02 ASA supports Canada Pacific/DM&E Railroad modernization and expansion projects in
817 the North Central states. In addition, ASA supports railroad modernization and expansion from
818 other U.S. production areas to Southeastern states, where imported soybeans and soybean
819 products may have a price advantage over domestically grown soybeans because of
820 transportation issues.
821
822 2.9.03 ASA supports strong state and federal assistance in maintaining low volume rail facilities
823 in rural areas of the country.
824

825 2.9.04 ASA encourages alternative access for farmers in the event of railroad grade closings
826 during and following railroad development.

827

828 2.9.05 ASA supports reform of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to address
829 competitiveness issues.

830

831 ~~2.9.06 ASA supports the development of increased railroad capacity to Pacific Northwest export~~
832 ~~facilities to help maintain the U.S. reputation for timely delivery of soybeans. (ND) [reinstate]~~

833

834 2.10.00 Highways & Roads

835 2.10.01 ASA opposes states or local municipalities enacting lower weight limits on primary
836 roads going through their jurisdiction without providing alternative routes.

837 2.10.02 ASA supports expanding the truck weight limits on federal interstate highways to a
838 minimum of 97,000 pounds, provided that there is a 6th axle.

839

840 2.10.03 ASA urges State and Federal Department of Transportation to update roads and bridges
841 to accommodate all modern implements of husbandry, trucks and trailers per Federal DOT
842 definition.

843

844

845 2.11.00 Edible Oil Content Labeling

846 2.11.01 ASA will cooperate with all interested parties in educating consumers about the health
847 benefits of soybean oil.

848

849 2.11.02 ASA supports exempting refined vegetable oil from any domestic or international
850 labeling requirement based on allergenicity or hypersensitivity.

851

852 2.11.03 ASA opposes the Food and Drug Administration's rule that permits a label to contain an
853 optional listing of vegetable oils. Consumers should be provided with clear information on the
854 type and amount of vegetable oil that the product contains.

855

856 2.11.04 ASA supports front of package labeling on processed foods indicating the level of
857 saturated fat content on a per serving basis.

858

859

860 2.12.00 Soy Foods

861 2.12.01 ASA opposes local, state and federal laws, tariffs and regulations that discriminate
862 against the use of soy oil or protein in foods.

863

864 2.12.02 ASA supports the increased use of soy protein in foods and beverages, including foods
865 used in federal nutrition programs and opposes the protein restrictions for school lunches.

866

867 2.12.03 ASA encourages producers to grow high protein and oil soybean varieties, and
868 encourages purchasers to pay a premium for these varieties.

869

870 2.12.04 ASA supports the reimbursable option for fortified soymilk in the federal school lunch
871 and breakfast programs without the requirement of a doctor's note.

872

873

874 2.13.00 Crop Insurance

875 2.13.01 Crop insurance should not be tied to specific environmental issues, cultural practices or
876 conservation compliance.

877

878 2.13.02 ASA supports Crop Insurance Program reform that eliminates inadequacies of the
879 current program for specific crops and regions. Subsidies should be increased at the higher
880 levels of coverage to ensure that all producers can obtain affordable coverage for 85% of their
881 crop based on actual historical yield. A more accurate and equitable rating system, responsive
882 to multiyear disasters, and recognition of producer history must be integral components of
883 program reform. Understanding that crop insurance is a valuable risk management tool, ASA
884 supports policy that broadens the base of risk management tools, subsidized or otherwise. ASA
885 also supports expanded development of revenue protection programs to insure that all
886 producers can manage production and price risk at an affordable cost.

887

888 2.13.03 ASA urges the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to establish representative
889 farmer advisory committees at both the federal and state levels to provide input into the
890 process of evaluating and revising farming methods to be included for coverage.

891

892 2.13.04 ASA should work towards the following changes being made to the crop insurance
893 program.

- 894 • On land rated as high risk due to a specific peril, such as flooding, we recommend the
895 attachment of a rider for that peril which will allow the producer to buy up additional
896 coverage for other perils at regular rates.
- 897 • FSA tract numbers should be used to determine units.
- 898 • The actual loss in crop value attributed to crop quantity and quality discounts should be
899 fully covered by crop insurance.
- 900 • Allow a producer that has had a Federal disaster declaration in their county/parish to
901 delete those yields from their APH.

902

903 2.13.05 ASA supports changing the federal crop insurance regulations so that once a farmer has
904 filed a claim and has provided all necessary information pertaining to the claim, the insurance
905 company should have no more than 30 days to get a claim processed and paid. After this
906 deadline, the insurance company should be required to pay interest on the outstanding claim
907 until said claim is settled. Also, while that claim is outstanding, the insurance company cannot
908 charge late fees or interest to the farmer's account for any outstanding premium due for the
909 crop the claim has been filed on.

910

911 2.13.06 ASA supports efforts of states or regions that double-crop soybeans to compile the
912 production and yield data necessary to allow FSA and RMA to adjust final planting dates
913 without penalty on a sound actuarial basis.

914

915 2.13.07 ASA recommends that in counties where the practice of double-cropping is recognized
916 as an acceptable practice that RMA rules requiring the exact double-crop practice in two out of
917 the last four years be eliminated. (M-A)

918

919 **2.13.08** ASA supports FCIC and RMA to re-review the actuarial rating process and rates for
920 center pivot irrigating practice on all crops on a state by state basis.

921

922 2.13.09 ASA supports alternative private revenue protection products or insurance be made
923 available for soybean farmers to use as risk management tools in addition to the current federal
924 crop insurance program.

925

926 2.13.10 ASA supports a crop insurance premium discount for insured acres through the Risk
927 Management Agency (RMA) for recognized crop rotations that decrease pest incidence and
928 efficient nitrogen usage while increasing yield and profitability.

929

930 2.13.11 ASA supports moving the Federal Crop Insurance premiums due date ~~be~~ to September
931 30 of each fiscal year.

932

933 2.13.12 ASA opposes cuts to the Federal crop insurance program.

934

935 2.13.13 The ASA strongly urges Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Federal Crop Insurance
936 Corporation (FCIC) to reinstate Group Risk Plan (GRP) and Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP)
937 policies where they are no longer available.

938

939 2.13.14 ASA recognizes that the interaction between a farmer and their crop insurance agent
940 and the amount of service provided by the agent to the farmer exceeds that of other types of
941 insurance. ASA urges the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to consider this when considering
942 the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA).

943

944 2.13.15 ASA requests the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to use a fair and equitable formula
945 based off of actual production history (APH) when establishing a historical yield for specialty
946 beans/output trait soybeans. These plug yields should be used for years in which specialty
947 soybean history is unavailable.

948

949 2.13.16 ASA supports private insurance carriers delivering crop insurance programs and
950 opposes having FSA selling and servicing Federal Crop Insurance.

951

952 2.13.17 As soybean farmers adopt new traits that are covered under Federal Crop Insurance,
953 ASA urges that:

954

- 955 1. Crop insurance agents to be trained to explain all allowable options available to
956 clients regarding insuring specialty and commodity soybeans.
- 957 2. RMA strive to verify yield correlation between existing APH transfer to specialty
958 soybeans where appropriate.

959

960 2.13.18 ASA strongly urges the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to make sure that one of the
961 appointments to the Board of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has a major financial
962 interest in the production of commodity soybeans.
963

964 2.13.19 ASA believes cover crops offer economic benefits including improved soil quality while
965 at the same time reducing erosion off site movements of nutrients. To allow further adoption
966 ASA supports practical Risk Management Agency (RMA) policies allowing producers flexibility to
967 destroy cover and still insure spring planted crops. In all cases producers must continue best
968 management practices.
969

970 2.13.20 ASA supports the trend adjusted APH endorsement for crop insurance, and encourages
971 RMA to make it available to all soybean farmers for the 2015 crop year and beyond.
972
973

974 2.14.00 Equity Protection of Grain

975 2.14.01 ASA should work with the USDA, other organizations and governmental agencies at the
976 state and federal level to develop adequate protection for farmer's equity in the event of grain
977 warehouse or dealer failure.
978

979 2.14.02 ASA opposes any Federal warehouse dealer regulation that would supersede State
980 licensing and warehouse regulations when it offers less protection for farmers.
981

982 2.14.03 ASA supports grain warehouse regulations under which producers are provided a
983 receipt to prove ownership upon delivery of grain, whether the grain is sold immediately or is
984 delivered for storage.
985
986

987 2.15.00 Soybean Trading

988 2.15.01 ASA should work closely with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and
989 the CME Group to ensure that the system works fairly for all traders. ASA supports the public
990 outcry trading system at the CME Group, but also encourages worldwide electronic trading on
991 commodity exchanges.
992

993 2.15.02 ASA opposes a merger of the CFTC and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
994 or the transfer of futures regulation to any agency other than CFTC.
995

996 2.15.03 ASA supports the CFTC in its ongoing efforts to implement an instantaneous, verifiable
997 audit system for commodity futures trading.
998

999 2.15.04 ASA opposes federal regulation of margin levels for futures contracts and on options
1000 contracts. ASA opposes transaction fees on commodity trading which will inhibit the trading of
1001 soybeans and soybean products.
1002

1003 2.15.05 ASA believes any futures or options transactions that offset a current or anticipated
1004 cash commodity position and reduce price or basis risk should be considered a hedging position

1005 and not speculating. Gain or loss from a hedging or option position should be considered by
1006 the IRS as ordinary gain or loss for either personal or corporate tax returns.
1007

1008 2.15.06 ASA strongly advocates and proposes a change in tax law to treat call options that are
1009 tied to a cash sale the same as a put option with gains taxed as ordinary income and losses
1010 100% deductible in the year they are incurred.
1011

1012 2.15.07 ASA supports improvement of federal oversight of commodity hedge funds to ensure
1013 the integrity of the futures trading system.
1014
1015

1016 2.16.00 Farm Continuation and Tax Policy

1017 2.16.01 ASA encourages more funding and quicker distribution of funds for beginning farmers
1018 through the FSA Direct Loan Program, special young farmer loans, Farm Credit Associations and
1019 other sources. The percentage of residence allowance for beginning farmer loans should be
1020 raised from 5% to 20%.
1021

1022 2.16.02 ASA supports efforts that would allow proceeds from the sale of qualified farm assets
1023 to be treated as an individual farmer retirement account to defer current capital gains taxes to
1024 a future date.
1025

1026 2.16.03 ASA supports continuation of the estate tax exemption of \$5 million per individual with
1027 a 100% spousal exemption, indexed to inflation with continuation of stepped up basis, and
1028 return to a maximum tax rate of 35%. Special use valuation should include all land staying in
1029 production agriculture for minimum of 15 years.
1030

1031 2.16.04 ASA favors implementation of \$500,000 in lifetime tax credits for sale of used farm
1032 equipment.
1033

1034 2.16.05 ASA supports maintaining the current three-year income averaging programs for
1035 agricultural producers, including family farm corporations.
1036

1037 2.16.06 ASA supports an increase in the maximum gift tax exemption and is opposed to the
1038 application of the Alternative Minimum Tax on Schedule F.
1039

1040 2.16.07 ASA urges that an individual who rents land or equipment to a family farm corporation,
1041 partnership, Limited Liability Corporation or any other farming entity not be subject to self-
1042 employment tax on rental income.
1043

1044 2.16.08 ASA supports a change in the U.S. tax code to allow tax deductibility for permanent
1045 conservation practices to landowners that cash rent their land.
1046

1047 2.16.09 ASA opposes double taxation when dissolving corporations.
1048

1049 2.16.10 ASA supports the proposed expansion of the tax exclusion on the sale of residences to
1050 include up to \$500,000 value of farm real estate.

1051
1052 2.16.11 ASA supports a federal tax credit for farmers' investment in value-added agricultural
1053 ventures. ASA encourages federal support to provide technical assistance to commercialize
1054 value-added products as well as business structure assistance for farmer-owned value-added
1055 companies. ASA supports a federal tax credit for farmer's investment in value-added
1056 agricultural processing ventures.
1057
1058 2.16.12 ASA supports extending the time period allowed for reinvestment of capital gains from
1059 45 days to 12 months.
1060
1061 2.16.13 ASA supports the full deductibility of health insurance premiums and contributions to
1062 Health Savings Accounts (HSA's) by the self-employed and supports equitable treatment for
1063 self-employed people under any new health care legislation.
1064
1065 2.16.14 ASA supports enactment of Federal legislation that would help to lower the cost of
1066 Group Health Insurance plans by allowing participation in the Group regardless of state of
1067 residence.
1068
1069 2.16.15 ASA supports that real estate sold must maintain its current tax status when sold to
1070 Government entities or nonprofit groups or organizations, exempting religious institutions up
1071 to 20 acres, as long as they maintain ownership.
1072
1073 2.16.16 ASA recognizes the estate tax to be a major obstacle in farm transition planning and
1074 would prefer that it be eliminated regardless of estate valuation.
1075
1076 **2.16.17** ASA strongly urges that the Section 179 election dollar limitation be returned to
1077 \$500,000 per year. In addition, ASA urges the reinstatement of the Accelerated First Year
1078 Depreciation or Bonus Depreciation allowance up to \$250,000 per year. (ND)
1079
1080 ~~**2.16.18** ASA supports reinstating 2013 accelerated cost recovery system (ARCS) depreciation.~~
1081 ~~(IL) (KS/NE/OK)~~
1082
1083 **2.16.19** ASA opposes any proposal to require farmers to use accrual rather than cash
1084 accounting. (MO)
1085
1086 2.17.00 Biodiesel and Bio-Based Products
1087 2.17.01 ASA supports the development of educational programs that provide science based
1088 information on energy conservation, energy management, renewable resources, and the
1089 environment to consumers.
1090
1091 2.17.02 ASA encourages state soybean associations and all biodiesel stakeholders to enhance
1092 biodiesel as a renewable fuel and energy source through communications and marketing
1093 efforts.
1094
1095 2.17.03 ASA urges state associations to work with state officials to:

- 1096 • Define biodiesel as a fuel comprised of mono-alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids
1097 derived from vegetable oils or animal fats, designated B100, and meeting the
1098 requirements of ASTM D6751.
- 1099 • Adopt the most current version of ASTM D6751 as the specification for biodiesel used as
1100 a blend stock with diesel fuels, as well as future biodiesel or biodiesel blend
1101 specifications approved by ASTM.
- 1102 • Encourage state officials to actively enforce the adopted biodiesel related fuel
1103 specification standard
- 1104 • Encourage the adoption and enforcement of BQ9000 for feedstock production facilities
1105 and marketers of biodiesel
1106

1107 2.17.04 ASA supports and endorses the inclusion of soybeans and soybean-based product
1108 applications and blends of such products in the development and implementation of any
1109 potential alternative and/or renewable fuel policy programs. ASA only supports the ASTM
1110 designation of D6751 as the quality standard for biodiesel.
1111

1112 2.17.05 ASA supports the development of state and federal legislation that promotes biodiesel
1113 and biodiesel blends through:

- 1114 • Tax incentive
- 1115 • Minimum renewable fuel content requirements that include biodiesel blends
- 1116 • Programs that promote biodiesel blends of 2% minimum or higher
- 1117 • Energy security measures that reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil sources
- 1118 • Use of biodiesel as a fuel additive to improve the lubricity of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel
1119 for on and off road applications including railroads
- 1120 • Federal and state grants or programs for establishing biodiesel infrastructure.
1121

1122 2.17.06 ASA strongly supports policies that encourage all diesel fuel and diesel-powered
1123 vehicles to use biodiesel or a biodiesel blend.
1124

1125 2.17.07 ASA favors continued rebate of Federal and State fuel taxes on fuels used in non-
1126 highway uses.
1127

1128 2.17.08 ASA encourages petroleum distributors to provide biodiesel blends at all stations across
1129 the country to enhance our nation's energy security, improve our air quality and reduce our
1130 dependence on foreign oil.
1131

1132 2.17.09 ASA strongly recommends continued national education and research in the use of soy
1133 oil and other alternative sources of energy from renewable agricultural products. ASA supports
1134 the Biodiesel Education Program as authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.
1135

1136 2.17.10 ASA supports increased lifecycle credit for the use of agricultural residues for the
1137 production of bio-based methanol for the use in biodiesel production, and the use of local,
1138 state and national funding for its promotion and research.
1139

1140 2.17.11 ASA urges that the benefits of the Federal biodiesel tax credit are captured by the end
1141 user.

1142
1143 2.17.12 ASA supports the use of biodiesel for electrical generation, industrial and home heating
1144 purposes.
1145
1146 2.17.13 ASA supports the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2) that reflects the expansion of the
1147 renewable fuels industry for biodiesel and ethanol and opposes any changes that would reduce
1148 obligations or otherwise negatively impact the biodiesel industry. [NEW – 2.17.32]
1149 2.17.14 ASA supports labeling at the fuel pump when biodiesel is at or above 6%, as defined by
1150 American Standard for Testing Materials (ASTM) and the National Council on Weights and
1151 Measures (NCWM).
1152
1153 2.17.15 ASA supports U.S. production of biodiesel fuel using domestic feed stocks.
1154
1155 2.17.16 ASA encourages the National Biodiesel Board to work aggressively with the Original
1156 Equipment Manufacturers to include blends of up to 20% biodiesel (B20) in their engine
1157 warranty policy.
1158
1159 2.17.17 ASA recognizes the immense role that agriculture can play in meeting our nation’s
1160 energy needs. ASA endorses the goal of securing 25% of the U.S. energy supply from America’s
1161 farms, forests and rangeland by the Year 2025. The benefits to the environment, fuel security
1162 and the economic stimulus for rural areas justify the sizable investment in a new energy future.
1163 ASA supports the 25 x 25 initiative.
1164
1165 2.17.18 ASA supports the establishment of national fuel quality testing centers.
1166
1167 **2.17.19** ASA supports nationwide fuel quality testing at the appropriate governmental level to
1168 ensure the highest quality in all fuels. (OH)
1169
1170 2.17.20 ASA supports the development of technologies to produce additional renewable energy
1171 products (including but not limited to cellulosic ethanol, soy meal derived ethanol or bio-
1172 butanol, and hydrogen from soybean sources).
1173
1174 2.17.21 ASA encourages the development and usage of technologies addressing cold flow
1175 properties in the production of soy biodiesel. ASA supports any new retail devices including
1176 but not limited to blender pumps to distribute various blends of biodiesel at the level desired
1177 by the customer.
1178
1179 2.17.22 ASA supports affordable electricity from renewable and domestically produced sources.
1180
1181 2.17.23 ASA recommends that the economic impacts on production agriculture, including both
1182 crops and livestock, must be analyzed prior to any consideration by the EPA of a Renewable
1183 Fuel Standards (RFS2) waiver request.
1184
1185 2.17.24 ASA recognizes and supports the role agriculture can and should play in the U.S. food
1186 and fuel security. ASA believes the bio-fuels industry utilizes co-products from agricultural

1187 production to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil as well as lower carbon emission, enabling
1188 the U.S. to become more energy independent.
1189

1190 2.17.25 ASA supports the work that the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) has done to support
1191 practices and promote the use of sustainable feed stocks and biodiesel production methods.
1192

1193 2.17.26 ASA supports that any policy involving direct and indirect land use metrics be based on
1194 multi-disciplinary science based and verifiable, transparent data so that biodiesel's impact on
1195 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is accurately assessed.
1196

1197 2.17.27 ASA strongly supports extension of the federal biodiesel tax credit for 2014 and
1198 beyond. ASA supports restructuring the biodiesel tax credit from a blender's credit to a
1199 production credit.
1200

1201 2.17.28 ASA supports federal energy legislation which includes soy biodiesel incentives and
1202 supports-biodiesel as an advanced renewable fuel.
1203

1204 2.17.29 ASA strongly supports biodiesel as a domestically produced commercially available
1205 biomass based diesel fuel that meets EPA's definition of an advanced biofuel to meet RFS2
1206 obligation.
1207

1208 2.17.30 ASA supports a home heating oil checkoff program that promotes U.S. soy biodiesel
1209 (bioheat) in home heating oil markets.
1210

1211 ~~2.17.31 ASA opposes a fuel tax use for building and maintaining rural bike paths. (MN)~~
1212

1213 **2.17.32** ASA encourages USB to continue to support research to advance soy biodiesel and soy
1214 bio-based products. (ND)
1215
1216

1217 2.18.00 Property Rights

1218 2.18.01 ASA endorses private property rights as set forth in the United States Constitution. ASA
1219 believes that farmers should be adequately compensated for loss in property value or income
1220 due to unsubstantiated land claims, environmental regulations such as endangered species,
1221 wetlands and other government regulations. We also support a strong "Right to Farm" law.
1222

1223 2.18.02 Government agencies developing flood control projects must ensure that any damages
1224 caused by the project to surrounding property owners be fairly compensated.
1225

1226 2.18.03 ASA realizes that production data such as field maps, soil tests, production records,
1227 images and input records have monetary value. ASA believes this information gathered by GPS,
1228 GIS, or other precision farming practices remain the sole property of the owner and/or
1229 operator, or their agent, based on their respective investment, regardless if the data collection
1230 was voluntary or involuntary. This information should not be used, released or sold without
1231 consent.
1232

1233 [WITHDRAWN BY IL]

1234 ~~ASA realizes that production data such as field maps, soil tests, production records, images and~~
1235 ~~input records have monetary value. ASA believes that information gathered by GPS, GIS, or~~
1236 ~~other precision farming practices remain the sole property of the owner and or operator or~~
1237 ~~their agent, based on their respective investment, regardless if the data collection was~~
1238 ~~voluntary or involuntary. This information should not be used, released or sold without the~~
1239 ~~owner's consent.~~

1240
1241 ~~ASA recognizes proprietary data collected from farming and agricultural operations is valuable,~~
1242 ~~should remain the property of the farmers and warrants protection, which includes the right of~~
1243 ~~a farmer to have access to their own data regardless of when it was shared with a company.~~
1244 (IA)

1245
1246 ASA supports national agricultural organizations working together on behalf of farmers and
1247 with industry to develop industry and data standards to clarify policy for the acquisition,
1248 ownership, valuation and utilization of agricultural data and to provide educational
1249 opportunities for farmers on best use practices.

1250
1251 ASA opposes any entity from serving as a data clearinghouse for all proprietary data without
1252 prior written farmer consent from the farmer who owns the data. (IL)

1253
1254 ~~**2.18.04** ASA supports national agriculture organizations working together on behalf of farmers~~
1255 ~~to clarify policy for the acquisition, ownership, valuation and utilization of agricultural data and~~
1256 ~~to provide educational opportunities for farmers on best use practices. (IA)~~

1257
1258 2.18.05 ASA opposes condemnation or mandatory restrictions that postpone or restrict the
1259 property rights of landowners without just compensation. ASA opposes the condemnation of
1260 land for recreation purposes such as trails, parks, wildlife areas and wetlands, and for purposes
1261 of economic development. ASA also supports a process that provides reasonable advanced
1262 warning of right-of-way encroachment.

1263
1264 2.18.06 ASA supports voluntary and practical programs for buying land development rights in
1265 order to preserve the land as green space or for farming.

1266
1267 2.18.07 ASA supports not holding landowners responsible for costs associated with unlawful
1268 acts committed by others on a landowner's property.

1269
1270 2.18.08 ASA opposes the use of Eminent Domain for taking wind, mineral, water, solar or
1271 development rights.

1272
1273 [MOVED TO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR REVIEW]

1274 2.18.09 ASA supports requiring all public entities to maintain their drainage ditches at the
1275 proper designed depth.

1276

1277 2.18.10 ASA opposes involuntary annexation by municipalities, and supports restrictions on the
1278 ability of municipal governments to encroach or infringe on agricultural land unless the farmer
1279 is fairly compensated.

1280

1281 [MOVED TO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR REVIEW][MOVED TO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR
1282 REVIEW]

1283 2.18.14 ASA supports a requirement that wetlands, government owned lands and private
1284 conservation lands should be used as a first choice, instead of farmland, when routing public
1285 utilities and roadways.

1286

1287 [MOVED TO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR REVIEW][MOVED TO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR
1288 REVIEW]

1289 2.18.15 ASA opposes federal executive orders that could deprive farmers of private property
1290 rights.

1291

1292 2.18.16 ASA opposes the 3.8% tax on passive income recently instated by the Federal
1293 government to help fund national health care. Reinstated and make new section Move to section
1294 2.16.20

1295

1296

1297 ~~2.18.17 ASA supports national agriculture organizations working together on behalf of farmers~~
1298 ~~to clarify policy for the acquisition, ownership, valuation and utilization of agricultural data and~~
1299 ~~to provide educational opportunities for farmers on best use practices. (IA) [duplicate~~
1300 ~~language]~~

1301

1302 ~~2.18.18 ASA wants to ensure the ownership and security of precision data collected by farmers.~~
1303 ~~(MO)~~

1304

1305

1306 2.19.00 Financing

1307 2.19.01 ASA supports the participation of all types of lenders to provide businesses with loans
1308 or other financial arrangements to add value and find new uses for agricultural commodities.

1309

1310 2.19.02 ASA will support the Farm Credit Service (FCS) as a farmer-owned and controlled
1311 financial cooperative to meet the needs of agriculture.

1312

1313 2.19.03 ASA opposes any restructuring of FCS that replaces farmer-elected members of FCS
1314 Boards with commercial bankers or expands bank access to FCS funding.

1315

1316 2.19.04 ASA believes the Farm Service Agency (FSA) should have the ability to make direct loans
1317 and loan guarantees sufficient to meet producer requirements for operating funds that are not
1318 met by other farm lending institutions.

1319

1320 2.19.05 ASA supports adequate funding for FSA credit programs including:

- 1321 ● Increase of guaranteed loan limits;
- 1322 ● Increase of the subsidy rate on guaranteed loans;

- 1323 • Interest assistance for guaranteed farm ownership loans
- 1324 • To fully fund the direct Farm Ownership Loan Program;
- 1325 • Extended lifetime loan eligibility for FSA credit programs;
- 1326 • Waiver of the 1% fee for guaranteed loans;
- 1327 • Interest assistance on loans for building farmer owned grain facilities.

1328

1329 2.19.06 ASA supports a farm financial and production standards system.

1330

1331 2.19.07 ASA supports the USDA farm storage facility loan program with this exception. ASA
1332 recommends to USDA-FSA to establish terms of the loans to be the same regardless of the
1333 dollar amount of the loan.

1334

1335

1336 2.20.00 Industrial Uses of Soybeans

1337 2.20.01 ASA supports incentives for the use of bio-based products. ASA supports expanding
1338 USDA's bio-preferred product list and an equitable tax credit for bio-based products. ASA
1339 encourages the USDA to actively provide the bio-based product label in order to increase
1340 acceptance and use of soy-based products by consumers and industry.

1341

1342 2.20.02 ASA urges private and government agencies to continue to develop, promote and use
1343 products made with soybeans, including biodiesel, fuel additives, soy soap stock for dust
1344 control, soy ink and soy-based industrial lubricants and all other industrial products.

1345

1346 2.20.03 ASA recommends that government and industry work together to develop the controls
1347 necessary to ensure that non-food/non-feed soybeans are kept identity-preserved and
1348 segregated from food and feed grade soybeans.

1349

1350 2.20.04 ASA encourages all state entities, including colleges and universities, to purchase bio-
1351 based products when they are readily available, of equal or better quality and do not cost
1352 significantly more than the traditional product.

1353

1354

1355 2.21.00 Biotechnology and Nanotechnology

1356 2.21.01 ASA strongly supports biotechnology and nanotechnology and believes the
1357 development of biotechnology-enhanced and nanotechnology crop varieties and products will
1358 benefit farmers, consumers and the environment. ASA believes biotechnology and
1359 nanotechnology are key tools that will help us meet growing world food, health and energy
1360 needs. ASA believes that it is critical that USDA, EPA and FDA operate a timely, efficient,
1361 predictable, and science based regulatory system for deregulation of new biotech traits.

1362

1363 2.21.02 ASA strongly supports the development and commercialization in the U.S. marketplace
1364 of new biotech soybean products that will enhance the profitability of U.S. soybean farmers,
1365 make soybeans a more competitive cropping choice for farmers, and enhance the ability of U.S.
1366 soybean farmers to compete in both domestic and international markets.

1367

1368 • U.S. Regulatory Clearances for Biotech Soybeans Intended for Food & Feed Use
1369 For new biotech soybean products intended for domestic food or feed use, ASA expects
1370 biotech and seed companies to obtain full food, feed, and environmental regulatory
1371 clearances from U.S. regulatory agencies before a new biotech product is
1372 commercialized. Until such clearances are obtained, ASA expects biotech and seed
1373 companies to institute the strict controls necessary to ensure that the new biotech
1374 product is kept completely out of all domestic and export food, feed, and planting seed
1375 channels.

1376
1377 • U.S. Regulatory Clearances for Biotech Soybeans Not Intended for Food & Feed Use
1378 (e.g., Industrial or Pharmaceutical Use)
1379 For new biotech soybean products not intended for food or feed (e.g., products with
1380 industrial or pharmaceutical properties), ASA encourages biotech and seed companies
1381 to comply with all relevant regulatory requirements and ensure that such products are
1382 kept completely out of all domestic and export food, feed, and planting seed channels.
1383

1384
1385 • International Regulatory Clearances
1386 ASA encourages biotechnology, nanotechnology and seed companies to apply for
1387 international regulatory clearances on a timely basis in all significant U.S. soy export
1388 markets that have biotech approval processes, well before the new biotech product is
1389 commercialized in the U.S. market. International regulatory submissions on new
1390 biotech products should be made such that, based on previous experience in these
1391 export markets, sufficient time for regulatory review and approval is allowed prior to
1392 product commercialization. A “timely basis” is considered to be the average time period
1393 in each individual export market the regulatory agencies require to grant approvals, plus
1394 an appropriate additional period of time required to provide a “regulatory approval
1395 cushion.”

1396
1397 ASA will actively support the efforts of biotechnology, nanotechnology and seed
1398 companies to obtain regulatory clearances in significant U.S. export markets, using both
1399 ASA policy and international marketing resources.
1400

1401 In the event a biotechnology, nanotechnology or seed company obtains U.S. regulatory
1402 clearances but has not made submissions to allow sufficient time for international regulatory
1403 clearances in all significant U.S. soy export markets that have biotech approval processes, ASA
1404 encourages the biotech and seed companies involved to institute the strict controls necessary
1405 to ensure that the whole soybeans and soy products produced from the new biotech product
1406 are kept out of commodity soy export as well as planting seed channels until the appropriate
1407 international clearances are obtained. In such a circumstance, ASA also supports the biotech
1408 and seed companies involved to establish the compliance systems and documentary evidence
1409 necessary to show that whole soybeans and soy products produced from the new biotech
1410 product have been utilized in the U.S. market.

1411
1412 In the event regulatory clearances have been applied for in a timely manner in significant
1413 export markets but clearances have not been obtained due to a non-functioning approval

1414 process in a country, ASA will consult with the biotech company involved to determine the best
1415 course of action. In making its decision on whether to support the commercialization of the
1416 new biotech product despite the lack of regulatory clearance in an export market, ASA will
1417 consider the potential benefits of the new biotech product to the profitability and
1418 competitiveness of U.S. soybean farmers, the size of the export market in question, and the
1419 likelihood of a functioning approval process being implemented and clearances obtained,
1420 among other factors.

- 1421
- 1422 • Marketplace Acceptance
1423 ASA encourages biotechnology, nanotechnology and seed companies bringing new
1424 soybean biotech products to the market to implement a comprehensive “marketplace
1425 acceptance” strategy at least one, and preferably two-to-three years before the
1426 products are commercialized. Such a strategy should include outreach and education to
1427 both domestic and foreign buyers, processors, feed millers, food companies, livestock
1428 feeders, retailers, consumer groups, and the media.

1429

1430 ASA will actively support and participate in the efforts of biotechnology and seed companies to
1431 obtain marketplace acceptance of new biotech products, using both ASA policy and
1432 international marketing resources.

- 1433
- 1434 • Intellectual Property Protection
1435 ASA encourages biotechnology and seed companies NOT to commercialize new soybean
1436 biotech products in countries that have weak intellectual property protection laws
1437 and/or enforcement unless a system is implemented to obtain appropriate
1438 compensation of the value created by the technology. Biotechnology and seed
1439 companies should take appropriate steps to prevent the misappropriation of new
1440 biotech products and technologies by or in those countries. ASA urges that all legal
1441 remedies be pursued to prevent the illegal planting in foreign countries of soybean seed
1442 for which biotechnology and seed companies have not received appropriate
1443 compensation for biotech traits.

1444

1445 2. 21.03 ASA supports expansion of controlled identity preserved systems that meet ASA’s
1446 Identity Preserved guidelines for internationally unapproved biotech and specialty varieties
1447 while continuing to provide customers with the products they desire and support the
1448 development, production and promotion of biotech crops that are acceptable to domestic and
1449 foreign consumers.

- 1450
- 1451 2. 21.04 Before technology companies commercialize a soybean biotechnology event in a
1452 country in addition to the United States, ASA urges technology companies to ensure that:
- 1453 • Intellectual property protection and value capture systems are in place to ensure that
1454 growers are paying appropriate royalties similar to U.S. growers; and
 - 1455 • A new event is not commercialized in a country until it is determined that patent
1456 protection for an event will expire no sooner than patent protection in the U.S. market.

1457

1458 2. 21.05 ASA supports mandatory review and approval of all biotechnology-enhanced crops by
1459 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food

1460 and Drug Administration (FDA) and supports policy that assures that proper marketing
1461 protocols are developed and implemented so that germplasm or varieties approved for specific,
1462 non-generic use do not enter the commodity soybean market.

1463

1464 2. 21.06 ASA believes producers should not be held liable for damages resulting from
1465 biotechnology-enhanced product use, when recommended practices and procedures are
1466 followed.

1467

1468 2. 21.07 ASA supports development of a voluntary certification and/or labeling system
1469 domestically and internationally for non-biotechnology-enhanced crops and organically grown
1470 crops or products For those customers who desire them.

1471

1472 2. 21.08 ASA recommends that life science companies should develop tests that can be used to
1473 efficiently detect the presence of a new biotechnology event before that event is
1474 commercialized. ASA supports the development of a review process that will result in
1475 standardized tests and methodology for detecting biotechnology-enhanced products within the
1476 soy food chain.

1477

1478 2. 21.09 ASA believes that regulations governing biotechnology-enhanced products be based on
1479 science.

1480

1481 2. 21.10 ASA supports the communication of the benefits and implications of new
1482 biotechnology-enhanced soybeans as they enter the marketplace.

1483

1484 2. 21.11 ASA believes that identity-preserved (IP) crops are valued-added products and should
1485 be included in federal programs for grants, loans, export programs and incentives at USDA and
1486 other agencies.

1487

1488 2. 21.12 ASA supports an expedited process for approval and acceptance of biotechnology
1489 products in the European Union.

1490

1491 2. 21.13 ASA supports biotechnology, commercial fertilizer, and commercial crop protection
1492 products as part of an integrated crop management system, and believes that any definition of
1493 “sustainable agriculture” includes the use of these products.

1494

1495 2. 21.14 ASA supports the statutory definition of sustainable agriculture, as included in the 1990
1496 Farm Bill. Public Law 101-624, Title XVI, Subtitle A, Section 1603. Under that law, sustainable
1497 agriculture means “an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-
1498 specific application that will, over the long term:

1499

- 1500 ● Satisfy human food needs;
- 1501 ● Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the
1502 agricultural economy depends;
- 1503 ● Make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and
1504 integrate where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls;
- 1505 ● Sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and

1506 • Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.”

1507

1508 2.21.15 ASA supports developing a definition of sustainable agriculture that encompasses
1509 profitable, intensive production and encourages consumer acceptance of biotechnology
1510 enhanced products and satisfies food, feed, fiber, and biofuel needs.

1511

1512 2. 21.16 ASA supports establishing a process to maintain foreign registrations of biotech traits
1513 in countries that require them as long as traces of a trait are identified in export shipment.

1514

1515 2. 21.17 ASA supports efforts to establish a commercially viable and internationally accepted
1516 tolerance for the presence of deregistered traits in shipments and products in order to ensure
1517 the competitiveness of U.S. soy exports in world markets.

1518

1519 2.21.18 Low Level Presence (LLP) refers to low level unintentional introduction of biotech
1520 derived plant material in grain or feed that has been through a full safety and risk assessment in
1521 one or more countries, but not the country of import. ASA supports efforts to establish a
1522 commercially viable and internationally accepted LLP tolerance of not less than five percent for
1523 the presence of deregistered traits in shipments and products in order to ensure the
1524 competitiveness of U.S. soy exports in world markets and prevent disruptions in trade. The
1525 value chain must cooperate to steward new technologies when unique functional
1526 characteristics impact commodity markets below 5%.

1527

1528 2.21.19 Any qualitative definitions of food such as wholesome or nutritious should be based on
1529 the food’s actual composition without regard to geographical origin, growing practices, or type
1530 of crop (e.g. local foods, biotech traits, corn sugar, organic, etc).

1531

1532 2. 21.20 ASA supports private sector efforts to resolve any issues surrounding the deregulation
1533 of special use biotech traits through consultations between the trait provider and interested
1534 industry sectors, including farmer associations, processors and exporters.

1535

1536 2.21.21 ASA supports an aggregate approach to documenting the sustainability of U.S. soybean
1537 production. ASA believes U.S. federal and state conservation, environmental and labor laws,
1538 and existing U.S. farmer compliance with them, provide assurance that U.S. soybeans are
1539 sustainably produced.

1540

1541 2.21.22 ASA recognizes that American soybean production is one of the most sustainable in the
1542 world and will work to ensure that our image is maintained while avoiding undue regulations
1543 and empowering movements that would jeopardize our competitive position.

1544

1545 2.21.23 ASA opposes programs which would subvert constitutional authority by implementing
1546 sustainability and environmental programs through local and national executive orders.

1547

1548 2.21.24 ASA opposes state food labeling requirements, and supports federal legislation that
1549 would preempt state laws requiring labeling of GMOs. (MO)

1550

1551 2.21.25 ASA should work closely with food manufacturers, technology companies, and others in
1552 the supply chain to develop strategies for the long term on biotech labeling.

1553
1554 2.21.26 Commercialization of high oleic soybeans provides U.S. soybean farmers and the
1555 soybean industry the opportunity to regain a significant portion of the 4 billion pounds of edible
1556 soybean oil use lost as a result of transfat labeling, and offers expanded use of soybean oil in
1557 industrial applications. ASA supports regulatory review, timely approvals and the rapid market
1558 adoption of this new technology.

1559
1560 ~~1.21.27~~ ASA encourages grain purchasers to segregate new technologies that are
1561 unapproved for foreign markets. (NE)

1562
1563 2.21.27 ASA believes ~~any final~~ the FDA's proposal to eliminate the Generally Regarded As
1564 Safe (GRAS) status for partially-hydrogenated oils (PHOs) should be modified to allow a
1565 tolerance for PHOs in food products, and should reflect a reasonable timeframe to ramp up
1566 high oleic soybean production and other technologies as alternatives for food processors.
1567 ~~determination on the matter to rescind the Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) status for~~
1568 ~~partially-hydrogenated oils (PHO), including partially-hydrogenated vegetable oil (PHVO)~~
1569 ~~should reflect a reasonable timeframe to ramp up high oleic soybean production as an~~
1570 ~~alternative for food processors. (NE) (MO)~~

1571
1572 ~~2.21.28 ASA encourages USDA to approve seed and crop protection traits in a timely~~
1573 ~~manner to give U.S. farmers an advantage in controlling weeds and insects while also~~
1574 ~~supplying stable markets and opening new markets. (KY) (KS/NE/OK)~~

1575
1576 2.21.29 ~~In order to provide feed, fuel and fiber to our ever increasing~~
1577 ~~world populations, we support the use of biotechnology and~~
1578 ~~implementation of new technology to meet these demands. (KY) (WI)~~

1579
1580
1581 2.22.00 Telecommunications

1582 2.22.01 ASA believes that broadband access to the Internet is important to the quality of life in
1583 rural America and to strong and competitive farming operations. Therefore, we urge the
1584 federal, state and local governments to develop programs that will encourage private
1585 businesses and cooperatives to bring quality high-speed access to farms at affordable rates.

1586
1587 2.22.02 ASA supports a dependable public Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) differential
1588 correction signal available to all producers at no cost.

1589
1590 2.22.03 ASA opposes the use of adjacent band width by any company that would compromise
1591 the effectiveness of GPS technology for farmers.

1592
1593 2.22.04 ASA encourages the continued development and expansion of cellular networks to
1594 adequately address the needs of rural regions of the United States.

1595
1596

1597 2.23.00 Soybean Rust

1598 2.23.01 ASA strongly urges APHIS to take all appropriate precautions to protect domestic
1599 soybean production against the additional spread of soybean rust. Importation of whole
1600 soybeans, soybean meal, and soybean seed from countries with soybean rust infestation must
1601 be subject to science-based regulations as determined and implemented by APHIS.

1602
1603 2.23.02 ASA supports increased Federal funding for soybean rust research, including the
1604 identification of rust resistance and tolerance traits through genome mapping and data
1605 management.

1606
1607 2.23.03 ASA supports the EPA to complete review and to approve Section 18 emergency use
1608 requests for fungicides that are effective in treating soybean rust. ASA encourages crop
1609 protection companies and the Federal Government to facilitate the availability of products in
1610 the event of need, particularly those deemed effective on soybean rust.

1611
1612 2.23.04 ASA supports Homeland Security Presidential Directive, HSPD-9 with a stated purpose
1613 to establish a national policy to defend U.S. agriculture and food systems against terrorist
1614 attacks and major disasters including the spread of soybean rust.

1615
1616 2.23.05 ASA encourages Congress and USDA to support the continuation and permanent
1617 funding for Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PIPE). This national strategy
1618 monitors and communicates the detection and latest information regarding domestic
1619 occurrences and treatment of soybean rust including, but not limited to the following issues:

- 1620 • Scouting soybeans and other host plants
- 1621 • Expanding U.S. research on soybean rust, subject to strong bio-security requirements
- 1622 • Continuing a diagnostic and identification network
- 1623 • Establishing a National Center for Soybean Rust & Plant Pathogen Solutions.
- 1624 • Expansion to other soybean diseases and other crops
- 1625 • Continue funding a soybean rust sentinel system (IA)

1626

1627

1628 2.2400 Animal/Livestock Agriculture/Aquaculture

1629 2.24.01 ASA supports the continuation and expansion of the livestock industry (meat, poultry
1630 and aquaculture) in the U.S. for greater use of U.S. soybean products. ASA will work with these
1631 industries to improve the public image on the importance of these foods in a balanced diet.

1632

1633 2.24.02 ASA will show strong public support to livestock producers throughout the zoning and
1634 permitting process. Furthermore, ASA will publicly support livestock producers that face
1635 challenges by individuals or organizations with an agenda to diminish or eliminate livestock
1636 production.

1637

1638 2.24.03 ASA asks consideration that cost share dollars that are available to livestock producers
1639 for upgrading livestock facilities be made available to all livestock producers who upgrade,
1640 replace or expand their operation to make it an environmentally viable entity.

1641

1642 2.24.04 ASA encourages states to use science based environmental review process to evaluate
1643 livestock facilities. ASA also supports that petitioners reside within reasonable proximity of the
1644 questioned site.

1645

1646 2.24.05 ASA supports Livestock Premise ID to protect against the loss of soybean demand due
1647 to the outbreak of exotic diseases of livestock, poultry and aquaculture.

1648

1649 2.24.06 ASA supports the efforts of the U.S. livestock, poultry and aquaculture industries to
1650 vigorously oppose any initiatives that would limit the use of modern and accepted production
1651 practices.

1652

1653 2.24.07 ASA supports expansion of the domestic aquaculture industry, including offshore
1654 aquaculture, to increase food security, create jobs, and reduce the negative trade balance in
1655 aquaculture. ASA also encourages federal funding for research that would optimize the use of
1656 soybean protein and oil in aquaculture feed.

1657

1658 2.24.08 ASA supports clear, consistent and reasonable science based regulations and processes
1659 needed for the livestock industry to remain profitable. ASA further recognizes the following as
1660 science based programs:

1661

- Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA+)
- United Egg Producers Certified (UEP)
- Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)
- Humane Slaughter Act as regulated by the USDA and meat packing industry
- Transport Quality Assurance (TQA)

1662

1663

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1666

1667 And also, any other programs that will “maximize” consumer confidence that are based on
1668 sound, scientific analysis and economic feasibility.

1669

1670 2.24.09 ASA supports the recommendation of the Gulf Coast Fishery Management Council to
1671 allow offshore fish farms in the Gulf of Mexico.

1672

1673 2.24.10 ASA will work with our partners to educate consumers that modern animal agriculture
1674 production is science-based and provides safeguards for humane treatment of animals.

1675

1676 2.24.11 ASA believes that anyone who trespasses or enters property to release livestock or
1677 poultry or to damage property in the attempt to halt, destroy or curtail animal production,
1678 serum production or research should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

1679

1680 2.24.12 ASA adamantly opposes efforts by the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) and other
1681 animal rights organizations that attempt to petition or legislate against science tested, modern
1682 animal care practices.

1683

1684 2.24.13 ASA adamantly supports changes to current Federal regulations that do not allow the
1685 sanitary removal, by rendering companies, of dead livestock determined to be 30 months of
1686 age or older.

1687

1688 2.24.14 ASA supports U.S. livestock, aquaculture and poultry organizations that face challenges
1689 by individuals or organizations such as the Humane Society of United States (HSUS) with an
1690 agenda to diminish or eliminate animal agriculture.

1691
1692 2.24.15 ASA supports our livestock industry partners as they consider best management
1693 practices in determining humane treatment of their animals.

1694
1695 2.24.16 ASA supports the pork industry's continued use of gestation stalls as being a production
1696 practice which is essential in protecting employee safety, animal care and ensuring a reliable
1697 supply of quality and reasonable priced product to the consumer.

1698
1699 2.24.17 ASA opposes legislative efforts and ballot initiatives that restrict established animal
1700 production systems that adequately provide for animal welfare, worker safety and
1701 environmental and economic sustainability.

1702
1703 2.24.18 ASA supports the livestock industry. ASA believes livestock producers and their
1704 veterinarians are the experts on animal well-being and care, and will make the best decision for
1705 the animals under their care.

1706
1707 **2.24.19** ASA believes that no state should attempt to regulate interstate commerce of crop and
1708 livestock products by adopting more stringent regulations than federal requirements for crop
1709 and livestock production and products and applying those standards to all products sold in that
1710 state. (IA)

1711
1712
1713 2.25.00 Energy

1714 2.25.01 ASA supports preferential energy allocation for agricultural production and marketing
1715 during times of critical energy shortages.

1716
1717 2.25.02 ASA opposes the sale, transfer or other disposal of the federal power marketing
1718 administrations, as well as any regulatory or legislative measures that would increase the costs
1719 of electricity or impose other artificial cost burdens onto the rates U.S. farmers must now pay
1720 for electrical energy.

1721
1722 2.25.03 ASA is opposed to the concept of an energy tax and/or users fee when agriculture is
1723 forced to bear a disproportionate share of these costs.

1724
1725 2.25.04 ASA supports legislative action to increase domestic production of petroleum and
1726 natural gas to help stabilize further dramatic increases in farm input supply prices.

1727

1728 2.25.05 ASA insists that Congress and our current Administration develop and implement a
1729 comprehensive energy policy that is sustainable for agriculture.

1730

1731 2.25.06 ASA supports the routing and construction of the Keystone XL and other pipelines to
1732 fully utilize North American Energy Resources. Routing can, and should be done in a safe and
1733 environmentally sustainable way.

1734

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1736

1737 III. RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1738

1739 3.0.00 Preamble

1740 3.0.01 The American Soybean Association (ASA) is a leader in promoting the research,
1741 education and natural resource priorities and needs of the soybean industry.

1742

1743 3.0.02 ASA stresses the need to increase funding for agricultural research and conservation
1744 efforts. ASA supports measures to prohibit sovereign nations or global entities from setting
1745 environmental and/or water quality standards more stringent than federal or state regulations.

1746

1747

1748 3.1.00 Research, Extension and Education Priorities

1749 3.1.01 Rapid improvement of yields while maintaining or improving quality should be the top
1750 priority of soybean research and outreach.

1751

1752 3.1.02 ASA should place major emphasis on research to increase competitiveness of U.S.
1753 soybean farmers, expand consumer use of soybean products, reduce production costs; improve
1754 profitability of soybean production and position U.S. soybeans and soy products as the
1755 preferred source.

1756

1757 3.1.03 ASA believes more research on soybean composition should focus on the enhancement
1758 of industrial applications (including biobased energy), health and nutrition benefits, animal
1759 nutrition and production for both domestic and foreign customers.

1760

1761 3.1.04 Production research should be directed towards enabling U.S. farmers to be the most
1762 efficient and profitable soybean producers in the world. Production-oriented research should
1763 be continued in areas such as:

- 1764 • weed control
- 1765 • disease control
- 1766 • insect control,
- 1767 • nutrient management,
- 1768 • germplasm studies,
- 1769 • biotechnology,
- 1770 • nanotechnology,
- 1771 • soil amendment, and plant nutrient and water utilization

1772

1773 3.1.05 Genomic and varietal development should emphasize soybean yield and improving
1774 market-driven attributes of soybeans. ASA encourages more research by public and private
1775 interests to develop best management practices and economical crop protection products that
1776 maximize environmental safeguards. ASA encourages expanded efforts in market oriented
1777 education programs for soybean producers. Efforts should be made to develop new equipment
1778 and innovative techniques which will allow soybeans to continue to be grown economically in
1779 an environmentally sound, soil and water conserving manner.

1780

1781 3.1.06 ASA encourages the development of a standard formula that includes uniform non-stress
1782 germination tests, as well as stress tests.

1783
1784 3.1.07 ASA also supports full disclosure of all information concerning germination, vigor and
1785 quality.
1786
1787 3.1.08 ASA supports full funding for the National Plant Germplasm System of the Agricultural
1788 Research Service of USDA and also supports full disclosure of all information concerning
1789 germination, vigor and quality.
1790
1791 3.1.09 ASA demands accurate seed labeling for genetic purity to give producers knowledge of
1792 possible biotech seed in a non-biotech variety.
1793
1794 3.1.10 ASA strongly encourages all seed companies to enter their varieties in independent
1795 university variety trials.
1796
1797 3.1.11 ASA supports conventional research & development of soybean varieties that are
1798 important to agriculture to provide the biodiversity and a widest availability of varieties &
1799 traits. ASA encourages private and public soybean breeders to continue the development of
1800 conventional soybean varieties and to make them available to soybean producers.
1801 Conventional plant breeding and germplasm accessibility must be maintained.
1802
1803 3.1.12 ASA supports the efforts of the National Council on Food and Agricultural Research (C-
1804 FAR) and state councils intended to promote research funding for food and agriculture
1805 initiatives.
1806
1807 3.1.13 ASA recommends increased base funding for USDA's research programs, Land-Grant
1808 University research programs, Extension programs and new funding for other research
1809 universities.
1810
1811 3.1.14 ASA supports the protection for the U.S. soybean industry from both bio-terrorism and
1812 naturally occurring pests and pathogens by providing adequate funding for the continued
1813 efforts by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of USDA.
1814
1815 3.1.15 ASA encourages soybean producers to select seed genetics based on high quality, high
1816 yielding protein and oil content. ASA also encourages soybean seed companies to include
1817 estimated protein and oil content on a 13% moisture basis in their sales literature.
1818
1819 3.1.16 ASA urges states to coordinate plans for new utilization research centers through
1820 existing national experiment station forums to reduce unnecessary duplication and to maximize
1821 results. ASA urges that these centers establish industry advisory panels to assist in assessing
1822 needs, determining priorities and evaluating market potentials.
1823
1824 3.1.17 ASA recommends continued labeling on all soybean seed containers to include the
1825 number of seeds per pound.
1826
1827 3.1.18 ASA supports a requirement that all research cited or used as the basis for rules and
1828 regulations are available and completely open for independent review.

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3.1.19 ASA supports efforts to increase requirements through improved standards for sciences or other efforts to educate students on how food is produced, processed and properly stored. (MN)

~~**3.1.20** ASA supports agriculture conservation certification programs that educate and promote best management practices. These programs must be farmer led, voluntary, flexible and confidential. (MN) [MN withdraws – redundant]~~

3.2.00 Research Funding

3.2.01 ASA should continue to lead in coordinating, soliciting, prioritizing and allocating funds for soybean utilization and production research projects. ASA supports increased public and private research through coordinated efforts and funding by government, commodity organizations, universities and private industry.

3.2.02

ASA supports strategic increases in federal investment in USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) formerly the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) programs that will benefit soybean producers.

3.2.03 ASA encourages state-supported soybean research, extension and education programs. ASA supports regional approaches to research and education programs directed at addressing needs and attaining goals.

3.2.04 ASA encourages state soybean organizations to use technical advisory panels for soybean research proposal evaluation.

3.2.05 ASA encourages USDA and state experiment station administrators to fully staff soybean research projects.

3.2.06 ASA urges that soybean research conducted at public institutions and funded completely or in part with farmer check-off investments be considered as public property and made available for the benefit of U.S. soybean farmers.

3.2.07 ASA recommends the Director of the Oilseed-Fiber Division of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) must remain permanently staffed by a soybean specialist.

3.2.08 ASA encourages public soybean breeders to release new varieties on a non-exclusive basis.

3.2.09 ASA encourages any private or public entity research groups patenting, licensing, or in any other way financially benefiting from soybean check off-funded research, to use the monetary gain to expand soybean production, market development and new uses research.

1875 3.2.10 Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) is an ongoing problem in the soybean growing areas. ASA
1876 supports research into new resistant varieties, biologicals and genomes, producer education
1877 and testing recommendations for SCN.
1878

1879 3.2.11 ASA supports working with the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) or individual
1880 seed companies to develop guidelines which will allow farmers to continue to plant and
1881 propagate soybean varieties that a seed company has patented and no longer offers for sale.
1882

1883 3.2.12 ASA supports QUALISOY to continue to improve commodity soybeans through
1884 compositional work. ASA will coordinate and manage all legislative activities with regard to
1885 QUALISOY.
1886

1887 3.2.13 ASA supports a coordinated effort of state and national soybean organizations to set
1888 priorities and coordinate all federally funded soybean research projects. Among the factors to
1889 be considered in setting priorities are acreage, disease and compositional traits.
1890

1891

1892 3.2.15 ASA applauds the Department of Energy (DOE) collaboration with USDA to sequence the
1893 soybean genome. ASA urges these agencies to establish long-lived plant genomic databases
1894 capable of responding to technological advances. This will allow the soybean industry to
1895 benefit not only from the sequencing of the soybean genome, but also from translation of
1896 information from other sequencing projects.
1897

1898 3.2.16 ASA encourages Federal funding for research that would optimize the use of soy in
1899 aquaculture feed and support species development in aquaculture to better utilize soybean
1900 protein.
1901

1902 3.2.17 ASA opposes any USDA efforts to impose administrative charges on cooperative research
1903 agreements, including farmer check-off funded research projects.
1904

1905 3.2.18 Licensing or royalty agreements should be explored by QSSB and associations when
1906 developing research agreements with public and/or private institutions using farmer checkoff
1907 funds.
1908

1909 3.2.19 ASA supports federal funding for thorough life-cycle analysis of soybean production and
1910 the end uses of soybeans, including livestock and soybeans-to-biodiesel technology.
1911

1912 3.2.20 ASA supports the development and transition to high oleic soybeans.
1913

1914 3.2.21 ASA encourages that soybean research be expanded as every dollar spent on research
1915 and development generates a \$10 benefit to farmers which ultimately flows to the consumer
1916 in maintaining affordable, healthy and abundant food.
1917

1918 3.3.00 Conservation and Natural Resources

1919 3.3.01 ASA strongly encourages farmers to implement conservation plans to bring their highly
1920 erodible land into compliance. ASA endorses the implementation of voluntary conservation

1921 practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Conservation plans should allow
1922 for adaptive management. Public funding should be available for land altering practices
1923 required by conservation plans.
1924

1925 3.3.02 Future requirements for conservation plans should be changed or exceptions allowed
1926 (minimum area and width) for erosion control, grass strips, wildlife food plots and other similar
1927 measures. ASA encourages requirements for conservation plans that promote flexibility for soil
1928 conservation and water quality practices.
1929

1930 3.3.03 ASA urges the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to recognize the full value
1931 of no-tilled, strip-tilled, ridge-tilled, narrow row or solid-seeded soybeans and the use of cover
1932 crops in their conservation plan.
1933

1934 3.3.04 ASA supports Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other national conservation
1935 programs for the most fragile and environmentally sensitive lands. ASA supports efforts to
1936 ensure that water quality objectives remain a priority under CRP and are reflected in rental
1937 contracts.
1938

1939 3.3.05 ASA encourages the Farm Service Agency to enforce the 25% total tillable acres cap on
1940 CRP acres per county.
1941

1942 3.3.06 ASA does not support the requirement to reseed established CRP grasses when CRP is
1943 reenrolled.
1944

1945 3.3.07 ASA strongly opposes subjecting all Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments to
1946 Self-Employment Contribution Act (SECA).
1947

1948 3.3.08 ASA supports allowing small, irregularly shaped whole fields into the continuous
1949 enrollment CRP program.
1950

1951 3.3.09 ASA encourages the USDA to maintain the current penalties incurred on CRP acres
1952 withdrawn early from the CRP program.
1953

1954 3.3.10 ASA encourages an economic study of the affect of CRP acres on food and feed
1955 availability for end users.
1956

1957 3.3.11 ASA supports research and education on soil and water conservation in the private
1958 sector.
1959

1960 3.3.12 ASA supports full funding of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for
1961 both commodity and livestock projects. States and counties should be allowed to choose and
1962 administer all soil conservation, water conservation and water quality programs that best meet
1963 the needs at the local level.
1964

1965 3.3.13 ASA supports the NRCS as an agency within USDA and urges them to provide adequate
1966 funding for field staff and technical assistance. ASA urges adequate funding for the NRCS to

1967 provide locally trained field staff and experienced technical assistance. ASA also supports using
1968 mandatory funding to pay for Technical Service Providers.
1969
1970 3.3.14 ASA believes farmers must have flexibility in improving and maintaining drainage for
1971 production purposes. ASA discourages regulations that limit the most beneficial use of
1972 agricultural land.
1973
1974 3.3.15 ASA strongly urges NRCS to allow variances for the implementation of conservation plans
1975 in declared disaster counties and on small tracts of land under super-sod busting law. ASA
1976 supports the idea that the super sod-busting provision of the Conservation Reserve Program
1977 (CRP) approved in the 1990 Farm Bill remains farmer friendly. ASA agrees with the intent of the
1978 super sod-busting law on larger tracts of land; however ASA strongly believes that some
1979 tolerance or exemptions need to exist.
1980
1981 3.3.16 ASA recommends that all environmental mandates must have incentives for farmer
1982 compliance rather than penalties for non-compliance.
1983
1984 3.3.17 ASA recommends that wetland non-compliance determinations be limited to a three (3)
1985 year look back.
1986
1987 3.3.18 ASA urges that in the case of a wetland compliance violation, a penalty shall be assessed
1988 based on wetland, fair market tax value of said wetland. Said fine shall only apply to the
1989 wetland acreage found in non-compliance.
1990
1991 3.3.19 ASA supports public policies to maintain a navigable level of water in rivers and inland
1992 waterways by preventing the Corps of Engineers from assigning undue importance and priority
1993 to interests such as recreation to the detriment of power, municipal water supply, navigation
1994 and flood control. ASA discourages additional land acquisition by government agencies with
1995 the purpose of increasing wetlands and recreation without consideration of the impact to
1996 inland drainage, navigation and flood control.
1997 **3.3.20** ASA supports the timely determination of the FSA Form 1026 process. The process
1998 should be completed in 60 days and the appeal process should be completed in 30 days.
1999 (ND/MN/SD/NY)
2000
2001 **3.3.21** ASA supports the establishment of a local arbitration system for disputed determinations
2002 of wetlands and highly erodible lands. (ND/MN/SD/NY)
2003
2004 3.3.22 ASA believes laws and regulations designed to protect endangered species must be
2005 science based. ASA supports legislation that would protect producers from unintentional
2006 impacts to endangered species.
2007
2008 3.3.23 ASA strongly recommends that whole farm planning remain a voluntary process. Farm
2009 payment or cost share payment should not be dependent on the development of a whole farm
2010 plan. ASA does not support establishment of national standards.
2011

2012 3.3.24 ASA requests that all federal agencies review and justify the use of river gauge data,
2013 frequency of inundation and length of inundation to define a true agricultural wetland. After
2014 this review and justification, an emphasis should be placed on assigning an environmental value
2015 to said wetlands and allow the scope of normal farming practices to be assigned to that value.
2016

2017 3.3.25 ASA believes that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) should be the
2018 federal agency responsible for making technical determinations on agricultural lands with
2019 respect to wetlands or converted wetlands. ASA recommends that Federal environmental
2020 regulations for farming related activities be administered by the NRCS at the local level, when
2021 possible. [MOVE SECTIONS 2.18.08/2.18.11-12/2.18.14-15 AFTER THIS SECTION]
2022

2023 3.3.26 ASA encourages the development of wetland mitigation banks and further, that
2024 mitigation is limited to a one-acre for one-acre basis.
2025

2026 3.3.27 ASA supports consistent wetland delineation procedures for all states.
2027

2028 3.3.28 ASA urges farmer representation at the local watershed level whenever policies and
2029 regulations are being formulated.
2030

2031 3.3.29 ASA supports producer-led and managed application of Certified Environmental
2032 Management Systems for Agriculture (CEMSA) as a framework for producers to improve
2033 resource management and address impacts on the environment. ASA encourages federal and
2034 state governments, universities, and private interests to provide support for a pilot project that
2035 involves providing goods and services to producers in the application of CEMSA.
2036

2037 3.3.30 ASA supports full funding and implementation of the Conservation Stewardship Program
2038 (CSP). Payments should reward producers for good stewardship and conservation practices.
2039 Compensation for conservation practices should not be limited by the size of the producer's
2040 operation. Consideration should be given to practical conservation farming practices based on
2041 soil type and climate conditions.
2042

2043 3.3.31 ASA believes that information a producer provides to the USDA for participation in the
2044 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) should remain confidential. Furthermore, farmers
2045 who voluntarily submit information to the USDA in order to participate in the CSP should be
2046 held harmless for that disclosure.
2047

2048 3.3.32 ASA calls on the U.S. EPA to include land grant university researchers in its scientific
2049 review process of water quality and hypoxia related issues. Especially white papers by the U.S.
2050 EPA Regional 4 office in Atlanta. (KY)
2051

2052 3.3.33 ASA supports a requirement of using aerial photos from the 1980 to 1990 timeframe for
2053 making wetland determinations.
2054

2055 3.3.34 ASA supports refocusing Federal conservation programs back to those that promote the
2056 sustainability of soil fertility and productivity, in order to control erosion and maintain soil
2057 organic matter levels.

2058

2059 3.3.35 ASA supports holding regulatory agency personnel to the same level of accountability for
2060 misrepresenting permit requirements as holders have for meeting permit requirements.

2061

2062 3.3.36 ASA believes that land dedicated to wildlife habitat should be subject to property taxes.

2063

2064 3.3.37 ASA supports policy that requires any information used by USDA, EPA or other agencies
2065 to form agriculture nutrient, pesticide and/or climate change regulations to meet the following
2066 requirements:

2067 a) The person providing the information to provide an express and identifiable reference
2068 to the sources used as the basis for the recommendation.

2069 b) The sources used as the basis for the recommendation shall be public information and
2070 shall include the underlying data and methodology in a format sufficient to allow the
2071 general public to evaluate the statistical inferences and to duplicate the methodology
2072 used to create the source information.

2073

2074 3.3.38 ASA supports land owners and tenants having exclusive rights to regulate access for
2075 hunting, fishing or recreation on private land. (SD)

2076

2077 3.3.39 ASA discourages disproportionate compensation from Government conservation
2078 programs that potentially remove valuable agricultural land from production.

2079

2080 3.3.40ASA supports the development of a voluntary, farmer led stewardship program that
2081 recognizes productivity as the foundation of conservation.

2082

2083 3.3.41 ASA opposes the depletion of productive, irreplaceable and essential natural resource of
2084 farmland for the sole purpose of establishing urban growth in areas prone to flooding. (ND)

2085

2086

2087 3.3.42 ASA supports voluntary agriculture conservation programs that are farmer led, flexible
2088 and confidential at the individual farm level. These programs should be based on the premise
2089 that long term soil health, fertility and productivity are the primary conservation goals. These
2090 programs should be in place to supersede any mandatory certification programs brought forth
2091 by local, state or federal agencies.

2092

2093 3.3.43 ASA supports a requirement that data generated by any water quality monitoring
2094 programs, including data used for development of standards and data to establish designated
2095 uses, be gathered and analyzed with protocols that meet the highest level of Quality Control
2096 and Quality Assurance.

2097

2098 **3.3.44** ASA supports the recommendation of the 25x25 Adaptation Initiative, including engaging
2099 in public and private research on best adaptations for crops and livestock, implementation of
2100 conservation practices designed to maintain the productivity of land, and assisting farmers in
2101 risk management to minimize potential losses. We support adaptation pathways that strengthen
2102 production systems, improve profitability and reduce environmental impacts. (IA)

2103

2104 ~~3.3.43 ASA encourages EPA to enforce safe sound levels both high and low frequencies that~~
2105 ~~protects the health and safety of rural citizens from wind turbines. (IL)~~
2106

2107 3.4.00 Crop Production Inputs

2108 3.4.01 ASA supports and encourages reasonable efforts to improve crop protection product
2109 safety, handling and education. ASA feels farm and commodity organizations should take
2110 leadership on those environmental and food safety issues that affect producers. ASA supports
2111 the efforts of farm organizations to obtain objective scientific research that quantifies the
2112 economic impacts of agricultural input restrictions. ASA encourages the inclusion of agricultural
2113 organizations by government, consumer and environmental groups in designing practical
2114 solutions to environmental issues.

2115
2116 3.4.02 ASA supports the use of safe, environmentally friendly containers for agricultural inputs.
2117 ASA supports policies that require Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) in generation of data for
2118 crop protection products. ASA believes that agricultural leaders and environmental advocates
2119 need to work together in developing environmental policies and common goals, creating an
2120 atmosphere of cooperation.

2121
2122 3.4.03 ASA recommends that EPA use scientifically valid data and research in making decisions
2123 governing crop production inputs and that EPA and other regulatory bodies must consider
2124 economic impact statements and risk/benefit analysis before proposing any restriction on
2125 inputs or new technology.

2126
2127 3.4.04 ASA supports the expedited approval process for new environmentally friendly crop
2128 protection products.

2129
2130 3.4.05 ASA believes that the EPA should grant producers emergency use permits in emergency
2131 situations for products already approved by the EPA for other crops.

2132
2133 3.4.06 ASA supports voluntary record keeping for general use crop protection product
2134 application and believes that such a practice provides evidence of responsible land and water
2135 use.

2136
2137 3.4.07 ASA encourages state soybean associations to take an active role in states' development
2138 of environmental policy. Local governing bodies should be prohibited from imposing
2139 requirements more stringent than federal requirements on the sale or use of federally
2140 registered crop protection products or biotech products.

2141
2142 3.4.08 ASA favors an international harmonized crop protection product code that conforms to
2143 U.S. standards as economic agreements are made with other countries.

2144
2145 3.4.09 ASA endorses the use of voluntary integrated pest management programs and best
2146 management practices consistent with sound ecological and economical principles.

2147
2148 3.4.10 ASA supports the complete and detailed labeling of all crop protection products and
2149 does not condone the misuse of crop protection products. ASA recommends that farmers not

2150 be liable for environmental damages resulting from input use where recommended label rates
2151 and application procedures are followed.

2152

2153 3.4.11 ASA recommends that all imported food products meet USDA crop protection product
2154 residue or other food safety standards.

2155

2156 3.4.12 ASA recommends Worker Protection Standard Act (WPSA) be reasonably and rationally
2157 implemented.

2158

2159 3.4.13 ASA supports the preservation of crop protection uses to maximize the list of pest
2160 management tools available to the grower for best management practices. ASA supports the
2161 use of the “data call in” provisions for the tolerance.

2162

2163 3.4.14 ASA recognizes that crop protection products are a significant part of the soybean
2164 farmers input costs, and that under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), U.S.
2165 markets are open to Canadian grain imports. ASA in the full spirit of NAFTA judges that all
2166 Canadian crop protection products that have an equivalent U.S. EPA registered product be
2167 given automatic reciprocal EPA registration.

2168

2169 3.4.15 ASA believes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) already gives adequate
2170 consideration to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when registering pesticides and additional
2171 requirements are not needed.

2172

2173 3.4.16 ASA believes that “common detection” should be redefined in the Pesticide
2174 Management Plan based on some level of a scientifically established Health Risk Limit.

2175

2176 3.4.17 ASA supports full disclosure of all information concerning variety name number, traits,
2177 germination, vigor and quality.

2178

2179 3.4.18 ASA requests the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discontinue any further
2180 implementation of “chemical specific” or “chemical class specific” use of buffer restrictions on
2181 pesticide labeling until the agency establishes protocols to evaluate “drift reduction
2182 technology” (DRT) and incorporates DRT language into pesticide labeling.

2183

2184 3.4.19 ASA opposes the elimination of atrazine and atrazine products as a method of weed
2185 control in general farming practices.

2186

2187 ~~3.4.20 ASA also opposes heightened pesticide guidelines and forced change from cash based to~~
2188 ~~accrual based accounting in agriculture. [MISSOURI TO REWRITE AND RESUBMIT]~~

2189

2190 **3.4.20** ASA supports maintaining all agricultural inputs as a tax deduction in crop production.
2191 (IN/OH/MI) [move to tax section] 2.16.00

2192

2193 3.5.00 Water Quality & Usage

2194 3.5.01 ASA recommends that Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) be the
2195 responsible agency for coordinating groundwater and surface water programs. [MOVE
2196 SECTIONS 2.8.16 TO 2.8.18 AFTER THIS SECTION]
2197

2198 3.5.02 ASA supports the use of scientific based research in developing national water quality
2199 standards and educational programs to safeguard groundwater and surface water resources.
2200 State and local agricultural agencies should plan and assist in implementing programs and
2201 policies based on geographical and geological differences.
2202

2203 3.5.03 ASA recommends that research should be conducted that addresses the source,
2204 movement and acceptable levels of crop protection products in surface and groundwater
2205 regardless of whether the source is agricultural or non-agricultural. Based upon scientific
2206 research, any environmental recommendations or regulations must take into consideration a
2207 cost-benefit analysis to the consumer, producer and positive balance of U.S. trade.
2208

2209 3.5.04 ASA recommends the continuation of research and education programs that would
2210 enhance the environmentally sound and economically viable storage and use of agricultural by
2211 products and animal manure nutrients.
2212

2213 3.5.05 Cropland erosion and fresh water quality are matters of national concern that call for
2214 reevaluation and increased funding of Federal cost-sharing practices such as terracing, strip
2215 cropping, grassed waterways, field borders, cover crops and other traditional soil and water
2216 management practices. ASA supports voluntary programs and encourages the adoption of Best
2217 Management Practices and believes there must be adequate government compensation for
2218 such cost sharing practices.
2219

2220 3.5.06 ASA supports water quality standards that are ecologically and economically attainable.
2221 ASA supports just compensation to the producer when standards are imposed or required
2222 other than agronomically optimal management systems.
2223

2224 3.5.07 ASA supports the development and funding of rural drinking water projects.
2225

2226 3.5.08 ASA supports agriculture's right to use ground water and surface water for production
2227 purposes and considers it a priority use.
2228

2229 3.5.09 ASA believes there is a need for research to determine the net effect of phosphorus
2230 bound by sediment on surface water quality.
2231

2232 3.5.10 ASA supports voluntary science based programs and policies directed on a farm-by-farm
2233 basis toward ongoing in-field evaluation of nutrient management methods which allow
2234 producers to continually improve their nutrient management practices. ASA supports and
2235 believes in:

2236

- 2237 • central coordination of networks of in-field evaluation to improve nutrient
2238 management decisions
- 2239 • infrastructure for conservation efforts in watersheds and sub-watersheds

- 2240 • cooperative conservation efforts among public and private organizations and
2241 individuals that achieve a positive environmental impact and meets demands for
2242 production
- 2243 • research findings and citations of data accessible to producers must be the
2244 foundation for developing and expanding nutrient management programs.
2245

2246 3.5.11 ASA believes all rules and regulations impacting production agriculture should be based
2247 on current scientific based research. Linkages and citations of data must be a guiding force in
2248 developing environmental programs and policy. Quality assurance provisions must be available
2249 for review in order to judge data integrity and utility.
2250

2251 3.5.12 ASA opposes a shift in liability that could occur with a Point: Non-Point pollution credit
2252 trading program and supports a requirement that farmer stakeholders affected by the trading
2253 provisions have final control over the program.
2254

2255 3.5.13 ASA supports the requirements that point-point source water quality pollution trading
2256 be automatically available to any new point source permit holders that have lower discharge
2257 concentrations than existing point sources.
2258

2259 3.5.14 ASA opposes labeling of animal manure as a hazardous waste.
2260

2261 3.5.15 ASA supports requiring environmental groups to be required to bring forth their views
2262 and opinions on TMDL/Feed Lot regulations at public hearing as stakeholders as livestock
2263 producers are required to do.
2264

2265 3.5.16 ASA supports requiring that a “cause and effect” linkage to water quality be established
2266 through field or farm scale research, before federal or state watershed monitoring and
2267 demonstration programs are funded.
2268

2269 3.5.17 ASA opposes removing the word “navigable” from the Federal Clean Water Act or
2270 redefining it to include all U.S. waters which would then greatly expand the jurisdictional
2271 authority of the federal government to the detriment of farmers and others.
2272

2273 3.5.18 ASA believes that landowners or farmers should not be held responsible for negative
2274 water quality or public health consequences resulting from the establishment of wetlands or
2275 wildlife habitat.
2276

2277 3.5.19 ASA supports the proper implementation of the agricultural exemption to Section 404 of
2278 the Clean Water Act, including the continuation of the normal farming practice exemption.
2279

2280 3.5.20 ASA supports water quality initiatives that are science based. ASA encourages the
2281 participating agencies in the Mississippi River Water Shed Nutrient Management Task Force
2282 project to continue to fund research and monitoring on the causes of hypoxia in the Gulf of
2283 Mexico and their sources, and to submit its research to science based review.
2284

2285 3.5.21 ASA supports a Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan that is consistent with the scientific
2286 studies in the Science Advisory Board Reports; taking into account the strength of the sources
2287 and linkages between Nitrogen and Phosphorous discharges into the Gulf.
2288

2289 3.5.22 ASA believes the Clean Water Act does not authorize EPA’s extension of Total Maximum
2290 Daily Load (TMDL) requirements to agricultural lands. ASA should continue to monitor the
2291 development of, and modification of; TMDL standards to ensure that any mandated TMDL
2292 requirements would be scientifically sound and economically practical for farmers to
2293 implement or farmers are provided compensation for such implementation. The EPA must be
2294 able to cite the specific scientific based research that proves that the impairment threshold is
2295 justified.
2296

2297 3.5.23 ASA believes an Agricultural Ecosystem is a legitimate ecosystem and should be
2298 preserved and recognized in establishing water quality standards. TMDL discharge standards
2299 appropriate for other types of ecosystems should not be imposed on Agricultural Ecosystems.
2300

2301 3.5.24 ASA supports a requirement for consideration of background loading in all TMDL studies,
2302 plans, and legislation.
2303

2304 3.5.25 ASA believes that agriculture should not be held responsible for pollution caused by
2305 natural conditions when dealing with TMDL legislation, and that all natural loadings be
2306 separately identified and properly considered in the TMDL process, and that natural loadings
2307 consider climate and ecosystem dynamics.
2308

2309 3.5.26 ASA believes there is a need for research that ensures that climatic effects on flow and
2310 sediment loads are properly factored into TMDL studies.
2311

2312 3.5.27 ASA supports a policy requiring that BMP’s (Best Management Practices) which are
2313 promoted or required in Conservation and Water Quality programs have input from agricultural
2314 professionals, including farm operators and managers.
2315

2316 3.5.28 ASA encourages EPA to work with producers to develop voluntary incentive-based
2317 programs that would assist producers in meeting any future water quality objectives.
2318

2319 3.5.29 ASA opposes the establishment, by any unit of government, water quality impairment
2320 taxes or fees.
2321

2322 3.5.30 ASA supports a requirement that TMDL allocations be updated when new science
2323 indicates the existing allocations are incorrect.
2324

2325 3.5.31 ASA recommends that the Clean Water Act be amended to exempt producers from
2326 litigation/liability and not require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
2327 permit when producers can certify that the pesticides have been used in a manner that
2328 complies with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
2329

2330 3.5.32 ASA opposes any additional permitting process for crop protection product applications
2331 and urges EPA to craft any new regulations in a way that is not onerous to farmers. ASA
2332 opposes the EPA requirements for NPDES Permits for pesticide applications in crop production.
2333
2334 3.5.33 ASA supports subsurface drainage such as tiling to reduce erosion from surface water
2335 movement.
2336
2337 3.5.34 ASA opposes the inclusion of ditches and prior converted crop land on the EPA and Army
2338 Corps of Engineers list of impaired waterways.
2339
2340 3.5.35 ASA support restriction of non-elected Federal, State and Local government personnel,
2341 on participation in advisory Councils, Boards, Technical Committees and Stakeholder
2342 Committees that are components on the Impaired Waters – TMDL process.
2343
2344 3.5.36 ASA supports the balance of volunteer and elected stakeholders, and the restrictions of
2345 Federal, State and Local government agency employee’s as participants on advisory councils,
2346 boards, technical committees and stakeholder committees that are components of the
2347 impaired waters TMDL process.
2348
2349 3.5.37 ASA will work to ensure that the Volatile Suspended Solids (organic fraction) of the Total
2350 Sediment in our rivers and streams is properly accounted for when developing load allocations
2351 for turbidity impaired waters.
2352
2353 3.5.38 ASA supports an independent review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the
2354 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine how it can be downsized
2355
2356 3.5.39 ASA supports practices and policies that create permanent runoff reduction through
2357 increased crop water usage versus temporary retention through increased wetlands or dams
2358 for flood control.
2359
2360 3.5.40 ASA does not support the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation plan to divert water from the
2361 Missouri River to the western states.
2362
2363 3.5.41 ASA supports farmer implementation of environmental programs that incorporate
2364 adaptive management for nutrient stewardship and provide farmers long term economic
2365 benefits with the goal of continuous environmental improvement.
2366
2367 3.5.42 ASA has concerns about the EPA new oil spill containment regulations for on-farm fuel
2368 storage. ASA urges Congress to raise the gallon limit that requires Spill Prevention, Control and
2369 Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) and containment to more than 10,000 gallons in above ground
2370 containers, and clearly define the rules and implement consistently across the regions. (ND)
2371
2372 3.5.43 ASA opposes the EPA utilizing citizen monitoring to collect samples and submit data for
2373 determining product regulation, registration, or environmental impact.
2374

2375 **3.5.44** ASA supports the use of county, state and federal funds to perform routine maintenance
2376 on water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures, terraces and other
2377 sediment catch basins. ~~that have filled with sediment and that will no longer catch sediment~~
2378 ~~without such routine maintenance.~~ (MN)

2379

2380 ~~**3.5.45** ASA opposes the expansion of the Clean Water Act. [MISSOURI TO REWRITE AND~~
2381 ~~RESUBMIT]~~

2382

2383

2384

2385 **3.6.00** Air Quality

2386 **3.6.01** ASA encourages EPA to work with producers to develop voluntary, incentive-based
2387 programs that would assist producers in meeting any current and future air quality standards.
2388 ASA favors air quality standards for agriculture which are ecologically and economically
2389 attainable, and that are supported by science-based research. ASA further believes air quality
2390 standards for agriculture should be addressed and promulgated at the federal level.

2391

2392 **3.6.02** ASA is opposed to any local, state or federal legislation or EPA actions to regulate
2393 particulate matter or odor from agriculture operations or rural environments.

2394

2395 **3.6.03** ASA should be engaged in legislative and/or regulatory efforts that address Climate
2396 Change.

2397

2398 **3.6.04** ASA believes that agriculture should not be subject to greenhouse gas emission caps
2399 established in Climate Change legislation or regulation.

2400

2401 **3.6.05** ASA does not support regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

2402

2403 **3.6.06** ASA supports farmers being able to enroll the same tract of land for multiple incentive
2404 based payments addressing carbon sequestration, water quality, air quality and any other
2405 future environmental credits of benefit to the society as a whole.

2406

2407 **3.6.07** ASA supports carbon sequestration research and related efforts to maximize the
2408 ancillary benefits of conservation practices that store carbon and other nutrients in soil.

2409

2410 **3.6.08** ASA opposes any federal legislation and/or regulation which attempts to adopt air
2411 quality control standards that are not science based.

2412

2413 **3.6.09** ASA is opposed to the federal government signing or endorsing any global warming
2414 treaty or implementing parts of the treaty by Executive Order that would have a negative effect
2415 on agriculture.

2416

2417

2418 **3.7.00** Intellectual Property Rights

2419 **3.7.01** ASA recognizes the need for research and development to improve the profitability of
2420 soybeans for the grower and to create added value traits to address end user needs, and

2421 supports intellectual property rights of the developers of new traits, domestically and
2422 internationally.

2423

2424 3.7.02 ASA supports the Plant Variety Protection Act. ASA believes this protection is important
2425 to encourage investment in research that will keep soybeans as a profitable crop and maintain
2426 soybeans as a premium source of oil and protein.

2427

2428 3.7.03 Strong and uniform international intellectual property protection for new soybean
2429 technologies is critical to maintain the growth and development of the soybean industry. ASA
2430 will continue to work with the U.S. government, the U.S. seed industry and international
2431 organizations to ensure consistent global application of the intellectual property rights for new
2432 soybean technologies.

2433

2434 3.7.04 ASA supports the adoption and use of biotechnology-derived products in farming
2435 operations. ASA discourages producer contracts concerning patented genetic material that
2436 may transgress on private property rights without reasonable belief of patent infringement.

2437

2438 3.7.05 ASA supports keeping the soybean genome and protenome research information in the
2439 public sector.

2440

2441 3.7.06 ASA encourages genetic intellectual property rights to be issued and controlled in the
2442 public sector when they are developed by public or soybean check-off funds.

2443

2444 3.7.07 ASA encourages broad integration of technologies with varying seed sources.

2445

2446 3.7.08 ASA encourages the seed production companies to continue offering “genetic
2447 technology” post patent.

2448

2449 3.7.09 ASA believes that patents derived from soybean checkoff funding which are
2450 subsequently sold to private industry, should be brought to market within a 3-year span of
2451 time, or be returned at no cost to the original public entity.

2452

2453

2454 3.8.00 Education Funding

2455 3.8.01 ASA believes that agricultural education is an important foundation for the future of
2456 agriculture and that there is need for a comprehensive school curriculum that will accurately
2457 inform and educate K-12 students about the importance of agriculture. ASA particularly
2458 supports the efforts and expansion of 4-H, FFA and the national Ag-in-the-Classroom program
2459 and believes that it is important that all groups representing agriculture must be involved. We
2460 also believe that the corporations and companies that are our suppliers and which resell or
2461 process commodities also have a vital interest in a favorable public perception of agriculture.

2462

2463 3.8.02 ASA supports maintaining current funding levels for youth agriculture education
2464 programs, such as 4-H, FFA, and family and consumer science programs.

2465

2466 3.8.03 ASA endorses the long range goal for agricultural education and urges ASA members to
2467 provide active support for its projects and activities on local, state and national levels that will
2468 help create new programs in communities not yet served by agricultural education and FFA and
2469 ensure the quality and high performance of current programs providing personal, academic and
2470 career education in agriculture.

2471
2472 3.8.04 ASA supports more government, corporate and private education that increases public
2473 awareness of the stewardship, economics and risks involved in agricultural production.

2474
2475 3.8.05 ASA strongly urges more effort by our land grant university system and all other public
2476 and private organizations and entities to increase responsible and accurate educational
2477 programs as a way to offset consumer concerns regarding biotechnology, food safety,
2478 renewable fuels, crop protection products and animal agriculture.

2479
2480 3.8.06 ASA should work at creating educational materials and opportunities to educate youth
2481 on the basics of lobbying for agriculture.

2482
2483 3.8.07 ASA should work with USB to create educational materials and opportunities to educate
2484 youth and elected officials on the food chain and life cycle of soybeans.

2485
2486 3.8.08 ASA supports development of education programs that will promote, enhance and
2487 encourage science education with special emphasis in K-6.

2488
2489 3.8.09 ASA supports the Morrill Act as written in 1862 and later amended in 1890. The original
2490 intent of the Morrill Act was to develop land grant universities with the charge of specializing in
2491 agriculture and mechanical arts. ASA also supports the Hatch Act, which developed the
2492 experimental stations and the Smith-Lever Act. ASA is concerned that the current
2493 implementation of these Acts has been diverted from their original and important intent.

2494
2495
2496

2497 IV. ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS

2498

2499 4.0.00 Preamble

2500 4.0.01 ASA is a national, not-for-profit, grassroots membership organization that develops and
2501 advocates policies to increase the profitability of U.S. soybean farmer members, and the entire
2502 soybean industry. ASA further believes that control must remain with its farmer members.

2503

2504 4.1.00 Membership Statement

2505 4.1.01 Membership is the core of the American Soybean Association. ASA is made up of
2506 affiliated state soybean associations. These state associations provide the leadership,
2507 grassroots support, and guidance to make ASA successful. In doing this, ASA's membership
2508 generates farmer involvement and investment in ASA, strengthens ASA's policy influence and
2509 builds future leadership for the organization, demonstrated by the following statements:

2510

- 2511 • Development of membership is vital for the ASA, state associations and the entire
2512 soybean industry
- 2513 • Members are the foundation of the association
- 2514 • Membership dues provide financial support to the association
- 2515 • Members support programs and policies which make the association effective in its
2516 efforts to build opportunities for soybean farm profits
- 2517 • Members determine the future direction of the association through policy resolutions
2518 and the election of volunteer leaders
- 2519 • Members' policy efforts complement and enhance the soybean checkoff that funds
2520 market development, export promotion, research and education programs.

2521

2522 The focus of the membership program is to meet the needs of the members. The Association
2523 should seek direct input from the members, and should communicate directly with them. ASA
2524 places the membership program as one of its top priorities and believes it is vital both to ASA
2525 and the state associations to maintain and increase current membership and strive to be a
2526 strong membership organization.

2527

2528 4.1.02 Membership is a state-oriented program developed cooperatively with the national
2529 association; therefore, ASA and affiliated state associations should adopt and aggressively
2530 pursue membership goals and develop programs, funding, and organize volunteers and staff to
2531 meet those goals.

2532

2533 4.1.03 ASA Voting Delegates supports the following membership goals:

- 2534 • As of September 30, 2014, achieve a membership goal of 22,866 members.
- 2535 • The ASA membership program should offer basic membership services and programs for
2536 which farmers are willing to pay, focus at the local and state level with national support,
2537 provide a communications umbrella for membership programs of the national and
2538 affiliated states, and significantly differentiate between the services, programs and
2539 benefits for members versus non-members.

2540

2541 4.1.04 ASA urges the ASA Membership Committee and staff to aid all states to meet their
2542 membership goal.

2543
2544
2545 4.2.00 State Membership
2546 4.2.01 ASA urges state soybean associations to have active membership committees. Each
2547 state is encouraged to plan and conduct membership acquisition, retention, and involvement
2548 programs and further establish that membership be a high priority.
2549
2550
2551 4.3.00 Soybean Promotion, and Research Checkoff
2552 4.3.01 ASA supports continuation of the national soybean checkoff and encourages soybean
2553 farmers to support continuation of the national checkoff program. ASA believes that the
2554 national soybean checkoff is an important tool to help soybean farmers develop new uses,
2555 conduct production research and expand domestic and foreign markets.
2556
2557 4.3.02 ASA supports the original intent of the Soybean Promotion and Research Checkoff
2558 (SPARC).
2559
2560 4.3.03 ASA supports commodity and livestock checkoff programs.
2561
2562 4.3.04 ASA is committed to work as a partner with USSEC and USB to promote U.S. soybeans
2563 and soybean products worldwide.
2564
2565 4.3.05 ASA, as the cooperator with USDA-FAS, fully supports USSEC as the international
2566 marketing contractor for ASA and USB.
2567
2568 4.3.06 ASA believes it should maintain a shared leadership role with USB in implementing
2569 international market development efforts.
2570
2571 4.3.07 ASA supports ASA and state soybean associations in contracting with USB & QSSB's and
2572 earning a reasonable management fee. ASA and state associations shall have no restrictions on
2573 the use of this fee.
2574
2575 4.3.08 ASA supports policy that would ensure that USB, USSEC, QUALISOY & QSSB'S use ASA
2576 and state associations as primary contractors and coordinates for use in policy development
2577 any non-restricted dollars they may generate.
2578
2579 4.3.09 ASA supports USB's efforts to educate the general public about the positive aspects of
2580 production agriculture with particular emphasis on soybeans and allied commodities.
2581
2582 4.3.10 It is recommended that ASA and USB implement the coordination committee as
2583 allowable in the SPARC orders.
2584
2585 4.3.11 ASA supports commodity check-offs and that any and all funds may not be used for any
2586 government deficit or general funds needs.
2587

2588 ~~4.3.12 As the major force in the creation of the Soybean Promotion and Research Act (SPARC)~~
2589 ~~legislation that created the United Soybean Board (USB), ASA is extremely proud of the Board it~~
2590 ~~helped create and its accomplishments during the past 20 plus years. (IN OH/MI))~~

2591
2592 ~~4.3.13 One of the strengths of the national checkoff is the autonomy, authority and ability of~~
2593 ~~the individual Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSBs) to manage their one half share of the~~
2594 ~~funds collected and to select the USB directors they deem qualified to best represent their state~~
2595 ~~on the board. (IN OH/MI))~~

2596
2597 ~~While ASA appreciates the role USDA plays in the oversight of the management and~~
2598 ~~coordination of the soybean checkoff, USDA is currently attempting to exert undue influence on~~
2599 ~~the QSSBs independent ability to appoint who they wish to represent them on USB.~~

2600
2601 ~~Therefore be it resolved that ASA use whatever means necessary to ensure the QSSBs receive~~
2602 ~~the representation on the United Soybean Board they wish and not one imposed by USDA staff~~
2603 ~~or the administration. (KS)~~

2604
2605 ~~4.3.14 Therefore, be it resolved that ASA urges USDA to follow the Act and Order and~~
2606 ~~expeditiously appoint the directors based on nominees submitted by the QSSB's. (IN/OH/MI)~~

2607
2608 4.4.00 Industry Support and Cooperation

2609 4.4.01 ASA and affiliates appreciate the support they are receiving from their current
2610 agribusiness partners and encourage other agricultural allied industries to consider providing
2611 financial and in-kind investments in ASA programs.

2612
2613 4.4.02 Leadership skills are more and more valuable as the industry further expands into global
2614 markets. ASA greatly appreciates all corporate and checkoff funded programs that develop
2615 leadership and relationships and reach new people in the industry.

2616
2617 4.5.00 Public Affairs

2618 4.5.01 One of the primary member services of ASA should be to provide and implement an
2619 effective governmental relations program. To be a more effective Washington, D.C. voice for
2620 U.S. soybean farmers, ASA should continue to build coalitions and develop congressional
2621 contacts, as well as be sensitive to both national and/or state concerns as they are addressed
2622 by national policy.

2623
2624 4.5.02 ASA supports the continuation of a Political Action Committee (PAC) to support issues
2625 and individual candidates supportive of ASA policies.

2626
2627
2628 4.6.00 General Farm Organizations

2629 4.6.01 Realizing the importance of a united front in the policy area and the need to develop a
2630 positive public image of farmers and agriculture, ASA leadership should maintain a continuing
2631 dialogue and work with general farm organizations, commodity groups, urban interests, and
2632 others to achieve our policies and objectives.

2633

2634 4.6.02 ASA urges that the ASA and USB Executive Committees meet at least twice annually to
2635 develop common goals and evaluate programs to benefit the U.S. soybean producer.

2636
2637 4.6.03 ASA supports efforts by commodity and rural interest groups to reach out to non-ag
2638 groups to build positive relationships and improve communication.

2639
2640 4.6.04 ASA supports the United States Farmers and Ranchers Alliance and commonground
2641 programs at the National level.

2642
2643 4.7.00 Farm Safety

2644 4.7.01 ASA encourages farm families to develop, maintain, and implement aggressive farm
2645 safety practices to help protect our current and future generations. ASA encourages
2646 cooperation with other farm organizations to promote and implement farm safety and
2647 education programs.

2648
2649 4.8.00 Financial Responsibilities

2650 4.8.01 The ASA Voting Delegate body directs the ASA Executive Committee to examine the
2651 annual resolutions and formulate a priority list that takes into account available monetary and
2652 human resources. The draft copy shall be submitted to the ASA Board for review, amended if
2653 necessary, and adopted in a timely manner.

2654
2655
2656 4.9.00 **State and National Soybean Association Viability**

2657 4.9.01 The ability of soybean associations to successfully impact the issues of importance to
2658 soybean farmers is largely determined by the financial strength of these organizations. As such,
2659 maintaining financially viable state and national soybean associations is paramount. ASA and
2660 the state affiliates should pursue innovative fundraising strategies aimed at keeping national
2661 and state soybean associations financially strong.

2662
2663 4.9.02 Continued support and work should be maintained to ensure the viability and strength
2664 of ASA as the national soybean policy organization for state affiliates and individual farmer
2665 members.

2666
2667 4.9.03 Continue to use the name American Soybean Association (ASA) for the national soybean
2668 organization for domestic and international policy and American Soybean Association-
2669 International Marketing (ASA-IM) and World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) for
2670 market development.

2671
2672
2673 5.0.00 AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION – 2014 General Resolutions

2674
2675 5.1.00 The Delegates of this annual meeting wish to give special recognition to the following
2676 recruiters and states for extraordinary membership achievement in the 2013 Membership
2677 Campaign and to also recognize the top three national recruiters.

2678
2679 RECRUITERS

2680 Level 1: ROBERT NELSEN - MINNESOTA
2681 Level 2: MARVIN WAHL - KANSAS
2682 Level 3: TOMMY HINES - VIRGINIA

2683

2684 ASA further commends all states for participating in the 2013 Membership Campaign and
2685 applaud those who met their 2013 membership goal (in green).

2686

2687	Alabama	Arkansas	Georgia/Florida	Illinois
2688	Indiana	Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky
2689	Louisiana	Michigan	Mid-Atlantic	Minnesota
2690	Mississippi	Missouri	Nebraska	New York
2691	North Carolina	North Dakota	Ohio	Oklahoma
2692	South Carolina	South Dakota	Tennessee	Texas
2693	Virginia	Wisconsin		

2694

2695 5.2.00 ASA also wishes to recognize the cooperation of the City of San Antonio, Texas as the
2696 host-city for the 2014 COMMODITY CLASSIC® and gratefully acknowledges all organizations
2697 and individuals that made generous contributions of time, money and hospitality.

2698

2699 5.2.01 ASA looks forward to strengthening its relationship with NCGA, NAWG and NSP through
2700 their Commodity Classic partnership.

2701

2702 **5.2.02** ASA looks forward to the addition of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
2703 as a Commodity Classic affiliate in 2016.

2704

2705 5.2.03 ASA commends the 2013/2014 COMMODITY CLASSIC® committee members from ASA
2706 Co-Chair - Wyatt Whitford,
2707 Sam Butler and Dean Campbell for a job well done.

2708

2709 **5.2.04** ASA commends the SoyPAC Committee, especially auctioneer Eric Maupin and Chairman
2710 Mike Cunningham for a job well done.

2711

2712 5.3.00 ASA commends:

- 2713 • State agricultural experiment stations for their aggressive support of soybean
2714 research important to the future of U.S. soybean farmers
- 2715 • The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for invaluable assistance with current
2716 ASA priorities:
 - 2717 ○ Development, maintenance and expansion of markets for U.S. soybeans and
2718 soy products through the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
 - 2719 ○ Providing resources for development of a comprehensive environmental
2720 education and management program through the Natural Resources
2721 Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - 2722 ○ Promotion of biodiesel use through increased usage of soy-based biodiesel fuel
2723 in select government fleets
- 2724 • All Federal, State and private entities to continue efforts to monitor, identify,
2725 control and combat soybean diseases and pests

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- All the volunteer leaders who have become involved in soy promotion
 - The U.S. farm and trade organizations who have worked cooperatively with ASA to achieve our mutual goals for farm policies, issues, research and promotion
 - The United Soybean Board (USB) and QSSB's for their efforts in investing U.S. soybean farmers' check-off dollars
 - The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) for its ongoing efforts in developing and promoting biodiesel as an end-user for soybean oil
 - The State Associations for promoting soy-based biodiesel in their states
 - The efforts of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB), North American Agricultural Journalists (NAAJ) and American Agricultural Editors Association (AAEA) for their continued support of American Agriculture.
 - The efforts of World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) program and staff for their excellent market development work with undernourished world populations and request that ASA continue to coordinate and operate WISHH programs
 - The USSEC for its international marketing of U.S. soybeans and soybean products
 - Soybean producers continued support through contributions to the World Soy Foundation. The WSF mission is to reduce malnutrition worldwide through the consumption of soy.
 - The formation and work of the Committee formed under the Code of Conduct Memorandum of Understanding between ASA and USB to promote collaboration between the two organizations

2749 5.4.00 The ASA delegate body commends the domestic and international employees and all
2750 affiliated states of the American Soybean Association for a job well done during the year 2013.

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2752 5.5.00 ASA recommends that the appointees to all federal commodity checkoff boards be active
2753 producers of their commodity. [MOVE TO END OF 4.3.00]

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2755 5.6.00 ASA encourages all soybean farmers to voluntarily be a member of ASA so they better
2756 understand how policy and active farmer involvement compliments their checkoff funded
2757 successful marketing, research and education efforts for U.S. soybean farmer profitability.
2758 [MOVE TO END OF 4.3.00]

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2760 ~~5.6.01 ASA strongly encourages USDA to select the first nominees from QSSB's to serve on USB.~~
2761 {MOVE TO END OF 4.3.00} (IN/OH/MI)