



Policy Resolutions :: Updated November 2023

1. National Issues

- a. Farm Programs and Policies
- b. Insurance
- c. Foreign Trade Issues
- d. Taxes
- e. Research
- f. Other

2. State Issues

- a. Water Management and Property Rights
- b. Research
- c. Taxes
- d. Other

National Issues

FARM PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

- FP.1 The TWPA supports a strong and flexible Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which includes flexibility for land use and management, provides rental rates comparable to fair market value and maintains crop production history for future program participation. Furthermore, the TWPA opposes payment reductions in existing contracts, and the inclusion of land use planning (m/2023).
- FP.4 The TWPA opposes farm program payment limitations. Additionally, TWPA opposes USDA being able to have automatic access to farmer's tax returns. (m/2023)
- FP.5 The TWPA opposes means testing or further limits to existing means tests as a method to determine eligibility or restrict participation in federal farm programs. (r/2021)
- FP.6 The TWPA supports the continuation of FSA County Committee Elections wherein all committee members are elected by eligible farmers. (r/2021)
- FP.7 The TWPA encourages the production of consistently higher quality wheat; however, we oppose a national wheat variety registry that links government supports to variety selection and oppose the use of variety registries in other countries which harm U.S. exports. (r/2021)
- FP.8 The TWPA opposes Congressional action that would interfere with the ability of the Farm Credit System to continue to serve farmers and ranchers. (m/2023)
- FP.9 The TWPA supports a comprehensive farm safety net which establishes equitable policies for farmers in Texas and across the U.S. Furthermore, the association supports strong Title I programs designed to enhance risk management and reflect current operating costs and market conditions for all regions and program crops. (m/2023)
- FP.10 The TWPA encourages FSA to calculate all farm payments based on data from the county the farm is located in, not the administrative county for the farm. (r/2021)
- FP.11 The TWPA encourages FSA and NRCS to coordinate and provide benefits through the Emergency Conservation Program in a timely manner. (r/2021)
- FP.12 The TWPA supports increased flexibility and frequency for managed harvesting and grazing in CRP acres without penalty. (r/2021)
- FP.13 The TWPA supports Congressional action that would end sequestration which arbitrarily cuts farm safety net programs. (r/2023)
- FP.14 The TWPA supports the continuation of programs designed to aid farmers impacted by trade disputes and market disruptions. (m/2021)
- FP.15 The TWPA supports the development of private and federal carbon-related programs and policies which are voluntary, market-based and provide economic opportunities for participating farmers. Furthermore, TWPA opposes mandatory climate-related regulations which would have a negative impact on production agriculture and global competitiveness. (r/2023)

- FP.16 The TWPA believes discussion and federal action related to agricultural practices and carbon sequestration or emissions should be led by the Congressional Agriculture Committees and USDA. (r/2023)
- FP.17 The TWPA supports climate-smart agriculture policies which:
- incentivize voluntary farming and ranching practices that benefit the environment including but not limited to carbon sequestration and avoided emissions;
 - provide voluntary options for farmers that may not be able to participate in carbon markets but are undertaking practices that provide carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reductions and other environmental benefits, such as producers in certain geographical locations and early adopters of those practices through new and existing conservation programs or other USDA initiatives;
 - support and not compete with private markets by distorting prices or competing in the private marketplace; and
 - complement and enhance but not take away resources – financial and technical – from existing USDA conservation, crop and insurance programs. (n/2021)
- FP.18 The TWPA supports disaster program development and administration that is equitable, timely, and includes assistance for both localized and widespread disasters. (n/2023)
- FP.19 In the event of a farm bill or farm program extension, life of the farm bill payment limits should be increased proportionally to allow farmers to continue participation throughout the extended timeframe. (n/2023)

INSURANCE

- NI.1 The TWPA supports maintaining a strong crop insurance program as an important tool for farmers to manage risk. Federal premium cost sharing encourages participation, is critical to a successful program and should be expanded. Crop insurance should be a voluntary option available to all farmers and should not be tied to conservation compliance, an AGI means test, producer payments or any other farm program. (m/2023)
- NI.2 TWPA supports holding interest in abeyance on premiums until crop insurance claims are settled. (r/2021)
- NI.3 The TWPA encourages the timely development of new regulations that recognize and approve generally approved cultural and seeding practices by regional areas. (r/2021)
- NI.4 The TWPA encourages RMA and crop insurance companies to interpret and apply crop insurance rules and regulations in a uniform and timely manner, including the implementation of new provisions and programs. All new products and rules should be made available as mandated by current legislation or RMA should provide producers with compensation for lost indemnities. (r/2023)
- NI.5 TWPA encourages the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) to continue working closely together on acreage reporting deadlines with continued farmer input. (r/2023)

- NI.6 TWPA supports a shared networking system for crop acreage reporting between the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) which would eliminate duplicative reporting by producers. (r/2022)
- NI.7 TWPA encourages RMA to request additional or omitted information from producers within an acceptable time frame prior to administrative action on policy and claim denials. (m/2022)
- NI.9 The TWPA supports the continuation of the premium cost-share structure for all insurance policies, including the Harvest Price Option provision and all efforts to make crop insurance more affordable for farmers. (m/2022)
- NI.10 The TWPA is opposed to payment limits on premium cost-share subsidies or crop insurance indemnities. (r/2023)
- NI.11 The TWPA urges Congress and the RMA to improve options for eliminating the APH adjustment on crop insurance policies related to a quality loss. (m/2023)
- NI.12 The TWPA supports additional flexibility in prevented planting provisions which favor history of participation instead of current year planting requirements for eligibility of the Enterprise Unit structure. (r/2021)

FOREIGN TRADE ISSUES

- FT.1 The TWPA is opposed to any cargo preference provisions that would affect any commercial sales, blended credit or other export enhancement programs other than those already applying to direct aid programs. (r/2022)
- FT.3 The TWPA encourages increased funding for market development programs including the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development programs to enhance foreign sales. (m/2023)
- FT.4 The TWPA supports continued action at the WTO to reduce and eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers which limit U.S. wheat exports. (r/2022)
- FT.5 The TWPA supports Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) which directs the administration to secure beneficial trade agreements and reduce trade barriers for the benefit of agricultural trade. (r/2023)
- FT.6 The TWPA opposes trade, financing and travel restrictions on agricultural trade with Cuba. (r/2022)
- FT.7 The TWPA opposes reductions to U.S. domestic support programs and crop insurance in current and future trade negotiations. (r/2021)
- FT.8 The TWPA supports robust funding for Title I programs to meet the needs of producers and allow for an adequate safety net. (m/2022)
- FT.9 The TWPA opposes any attempt to require that food aid be given as “cash only” instead of allowing donor nations to provide food directly as emergency and development assistance. (r/2022)

- FT.10 The TWPA supports member country compliance of all World Trade Organization (WTO) trade commitments and encourages the U.S. Trade Representative to pursue action against any country currently in violation of its commitments. (r/2021)
- FT.11 The TWPA supports the aggressive development of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to increase agricultural trade. (r/2022)
- FT.12 The TWPA supports the continuation of free trade agreements which protect valuable wheat markets and increase wheat exports. (r/2022)
- FT.13 The TWPA encourages timely Congressional consideration of all negotiated free trade agreements. (r/2022)
- FT.14 The TWPA supports a fully functioning enforcement arm within the World Trade Organization to hold trading partners accountable to existing commitments. (r/2022)

TAXES (NATIONAL LEVEL)

- NT.1 TWPA urges permanent elimination of the Federal Estate Tax. Until elimination is achieved, TWPA supports an increased exemption which is indexed for inflation and a reduced maximum tax rate. TWPA supports an exemption for each spouse in the estate tax law. (r/2023)
- NT.3 The TWPA urges the support of further reducing tax rate for capital gains and opposes the collection of capital gains taxes at death. (r/2021)
- NT.4 The TWPA supports permanent tax code provisions to allow capital purchases of \$1 million or more to be expensed rather than depreciated. (r/2022)
- NT.5 TWPA supports raising the minimum reporting level on Form 1099 and opposes any further expansion of current reporting requirements. (r/2022)
- NT.6 The TWPA supports the continuation of stepped-up basis. (r/2021)
- NT.7 The TWPA supports unlimited deduction of interest for agricultural producers. (r/2022)
- NT.8 The TWPA support the continuation of cash accounting for agricultural producers. (r/2022)
- NT.9 The TWPA supports the continuation of Section 199a, the deduction for certain business income from a qualified trade or business. (r/2022)
- NT.10 The TWPA supports increased bonus depreciation and improvements to Section 179 immediate expensing for farm machinery purchases. (r/2022)
- NT.11 The TWPA supports unlimited carryback of operating losses. (r/2023)
- NT.12 The TWPA supports unlimited deduction of property taxes. (r/2023)
- NT.13 The TWPA supports the use of Section 1031 for like-kind exchanges for property and equipment. (r/2023)

RESEARCH (NATIONAL LEVEL)

- NR.1 The TWPA supports continued research and development of wheat and other biomass crops for use in cellulosic ethanol or biofuels production. (r/2021)
- NR.2 The TWPA supports robust funding for national wheat research initiatives and Ag Research Service facilities. (r/2021)
- NR.3 The TWPA supports the development and use of gene editing and other plant breeding innovations and streamlined pathways for science-based regulatory approval for U.S. and international oversight. (r/2022)

OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

- NO.1 The TWPA commends the National Association of Wheat Growers for its efforts to strengthen Political Action Committee (PAC) and encourages all wheat producers to make contributions. (r/2021)
- NO.2 The TWPA supports a responsible EPA pesticide regulation program to maintain safety of the nation's food supply, but which would not overly restrict availability and use of safe crop protection products. (r/2022)
- NO.3 The TWPA opposes any retaliation or ban on agricultural exports regarding advanced breeding techniques which are not based on sound science. The TWPA urges international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules. (m/2021)
- NO.4 The TWPA opposes the consolidation of large agribusiness industries whereas it creates a monopolistic enterprise, which violates anti-trust laws and creates an environment that is detrimental to producers. (r/2021)
- NO.5 The TWPA supports and encourages USDA to promote and assist in installation of grain cleaners in the Gulf Port grain handling facilities. (r/2021)
- NO.6 The TWPA encourages further analysis of the impact of a changing climate on agricultural production and opposes burdensome regulations without adequate compensation for economic losses. (r/2022)
- NO.7 TWPA supports voluntary conservation efforts to prevent species from being listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. TWPA believes that an economic analysis of agricultural impacts and all results and benefits derived from voluntary conservation efforts should be utilized in the final decision-making process before a listing determination is made. All science-based material used to determine the listing status should be made publicly available for comment. (r/2021)
- NO.8 The TWPA proposes repeal of the current worker protection standards that apply to all types of agriculture and urges that EPA and TDA recognize that the exposure to pesticides by workers varies by a large degree according to the types of agriculture. Specific workable worker protection standards should be structured for each type of agriculture and/or commodity produced. (r/2021)

- NO.9 TWPA supports improvements to the H2-A program including streamlining of application and renewal processes and the expansion to include handling of grain throughout the agricultural value chain. (r/2021)
- NO.10 The TWPA supports efforts to protect the use of crop protection tools which have been deemed safe for use by government agencies. (r/2022)
- NO.11 The TWPA supports efforts to improve U.S. wheat competitiveness by reducing transportations costs. (r/2022)
- NO.12 The TWPA supports additional measures to ease strained supply chains and transportation systems to ensure timely delivery and availability of agricultural supplies and inputs. (n/2021)
- NO.13 The TWPA supports additional oversight of foreign investment in U.S. agriculture as the industry is an essential component of U.S. national security. (n/2021)
- NO.14 The TWPA urges EPA to use realistic and regionalized data during the biological evaluation process. (n/2021)
- NO.15 The TWPA supports efforts to increase oversight and restrict foreign ownership of agricultural lands. (n/2022)

STATE ISSUES

WATER MANAGEMENT AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

- WPR.1 The TWPA supports the current state law that the land surface owner has the right of capture and that they maintain the right of capture with regards to water. TWPA recognizes and supports local water districts and their regulatory authority. (r/2022)
- WPR.2 The TWPA supports private property rights of producers. The producer should be compensated accordingly should any restrictions be imposed. (r/2022)
- WPR.3 The TWPA opposes the expansion of eminent domain to allow private companies to acquire private property. TWPA also supports efforts to improve land owner's property rights and just compensation measures. (r/2022)
- WPR.4 The TWPA supports a landowner's ability to recover legal fees associated with eminent domain cases when courts find in their favor. (r/2022)

RESEARCH (STATE LEVEL)

- SR.1 The TWPA supports adequate funding of the Texas A&M University System, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension, and other universities doing wheat research, to meet their expanded responsibilities in order for producers to meet the challenges of changing farm markets. (r/2022)

TAXES (STATE LEVEL)

- ST.1 The TWPA supports the current state sales tax exemptions for all agricultural inputs and believes it should be expanded to include safety equipment. (r/2021)
- ST.2 The TWPA supports the current agricultural valuation systems for property taxes. (r/2021)
- ST.3 The TWPA supports an exemption on all farm fuels whether for on or off-road usage. (r/2021)
- ST.4 The TWPA opposes additional fees and interest charged on roll-back taxes. (r/2021)

OTHER STATEWIDE ISSUES

- SO.1 The TWPA urges the governor and members of the Texas legislature to ensure that all departments within the Texas Department of Agriculture are funded at the levels necessary to respond to the needs of agricultural producers within the state. (r/2021)
- SO.2 The TWPA supports the concept of a thirty-day permit to allow gross vehicle weight for up to 85,000 pounds during harvest time. (r/2022)
- SO.3 The TWPA supports the development and continuation of federal, state and county programs to eliminate the population of feral hogs. (r/2023)
- SO.4 TWPA encourages TDA to alternate elevator auditors on a biennial basis in order to provide better transparency and clarity in a volatile market. (r/2023)
- SO.5 TWPA supports an expedited process through the Texas Seed and Plant Board to expand seed supplies in times of shortages. (r/2023)
- SO.6 The TWPA supports the privatization of Texas seed and plant certification services through a non-profit crop improvement association and encourages TWPA representation on the board of the association. (r/2023)
- SO.7 The TWPA opposes overburdensome state regulations which negatively impact agricultural industries. (n/2022)
- SO.8 The TWPA encourages AgriLife Research and Extension to respond to stakeholder input to address the regional needs of producers. (n/2022)