

MSGA's FY11 RESOLUTIONS
Adopted by MSGA Delegates on January 18, 2011

PREAMBLE

The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association is a statewide, single commodity, not-for-profit, non-partisan, volunteer commodity organization of soybean farmers dedicated to developing the opportunity for profit for Minnesota soybean farmers.

1. HIGHER YIELD (HY)
2. INCREASED PUBLIC RESEARCH (IPR)
3. AMINO ACID CONTENT OF NORTHERN SOYBEANS (AAC)
4. ANIMAL AGRICULTURE (AA)
5. BIODIESEL
6. BIOTECHNOLOGY (BTEC)
7. RIGHT TO FARM (WATER QUALITY REGULATIONS) (RFW)
8. FEDERAL FARM & COMMODITY PROGRAMS (FFCP)
9. STATE OF MINNESOTA (MNIS)
10. STATE & NATIONAL ASSOCIATION & CHECKOFF (MACO)

1.01	HY	R&TT	Supports funding for University of Minnesota varietal trial and soybean breeding programs.
1.02	HY	R&TT	Cooperative research at University of Minnesota focusing on soybean cyst nematode, iron chlorosis, white mold, aphids, bean leaf beetle, and soybean rust and other production problems.
1.03	HY	R&TT	University of Minnesota Extension to work with other universities in order to bring the level of technology available to farmers and other industries in Minnesota up to or exceed the level that is available to farmers in other states.
1.04	HY	R&TT	Supports the adequate funding of University of Minnesota's conventional soybean breeding program.

1.05	HY	R&TT	Urges that USDA use the utmost vigilance in managing soybean rust in the US and development of soybean rust resistant varieties for Minnesota.
1.06	HY	R&TT	Supports funding for University of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Agriculture to add a plant pathology addition to the existing insect quarantine facility at the St. Paul campus to do research on soybean diseases including soybean rust.
1.07	HY	R&TT	Continues to support the University of Minnesota in the research and development of food grade and conventional soybean varieties.
1.08	HY	R&TT	Supports the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA).
1.09	HY	R&TT	Encourage the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station to continue to research in alternative use and cropping systems and plant diversity, and
1.1	HY	R&TT	Encourage the University of Minnesota through its various outreach programs to promote and inform the MN agricultural community about opportunities to participate in business activities involving alternative cropping systems.
1.11	HY	R&TT	Supports the creation of an innovation incentive grant that would pay producers an incentive payment to facilitate the introduction of traits that have a value to society as a whole greater than the value chain can initially support.
1.12	HY	R&TT	Supports that all Canadian crop protection products have an equivalent U.S. EPA registered product be given automatic reciprocal EPA registration.
1.13	HY	R&TT	Supports producers being paid for their soybeans on a dry matter basis.
1.14	HY	R&TT	Urge seed companies when reporting on protein and oil in their sales literature to be consistent and report on a 13% moisture basis.
1.15	HY	R&TT	Encourages equipment manufacturers to encourage the ease of clean out in equipment design. This will facilitate the development of identity preserved systems.
1.16	HY	R&TT	Support the efforts of the American Seed Trade Association to remove ergonomically important crops from the proposed list of invasive species.

- 1.17 HY R&TT Support allowing small, irregularly shaped whole fields into the continuous enrollment CRP program. We also support allowing larger field margins to be enrolled in order to “square up” larger fields.
- 1.18 HY R&TT Supports the removal of the restriction from planting processed fruits and vegetables on program oilseed base acres within the Federal Farm Bill. Acres planted to processed fruits and vegetables would not be eligible for direct and counter-cyclical payments, but would preserve oilseed base history.
- 1.19 HY R&TT Requests that the United Soybean Board’s Competitiveness Committee do an evaluation of the effects of Federal 1031 exchanges on the competitiveness of soybeans as a crop in the United States.
- 1.2 HY R&TT Urges the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to develop a revenue product for growers of specialty soybeans. This product would recognize the relationship between reduced yields, premiums and the need to maintain a farm APH should regular commodity soybeans be grown in the future.
- 1.21 HY R&TT Supports the current Farm Bill with the addition of increase baseline funding and as adjustment of the soybean target price for soybeans to be more equitable with other program crops.
- 1.22 HY R&TT Encourage the Minnesota Department of Ag to partner with commodity councils in the state to meet the statutory requirements under the Minnesota Agricultural Commodities Contracts Act through educational opportunities that prepare the producers to understand both production contracts and marketing and bargaining law.
- 1.23 HY R&TT Believe a farmer’s production data should not be used, released, or sold without consent of owner and/or operator, and at the same time all information derived by consultants, fertilizer distributors etc be shared with owner and/or operator.
- 1.24 HY R&TT Believes it to be in the best interest of Minnesota for the legislature to fund the Minnesota Soybean Initiative in order to:
- 1.25 HY R&TT Enact a comprehensive program to combat and minimize the economic damage that these and other diseases are causing the state of Minnesota. Improve the protein and quality of Minnesota’s soybeans.
- 1.27 HY R&TT Opposes mandated farmer reporting of spraying records.
- 1.28 HY R&TT Opposes construction of a public database of farmer spraying records.
- 1.29 HY R&TT Opposes open public hearings of pesticides.

1.3	HY	R&TT		Opposes legislation requiring prior notification before crop spraying can be done.
1.31	HY	R&TT	2010	Supports seed production companies to continue offering favorite varieties after they come off patent.
2.01	IPR	R&TT		Accountability of research by providing timely status reports and financial reports to grantors.
2.02	IPR	R&TT		Maintaining the existing “State Specials” for the University of Minnesota agriculture extension service.
2.03	IPR	R&TT		Support continuing the word “Agriculture” in the new name for the new college at the University of Minnesota, and maintain a core mission supporting production agriculture.
2.04	IPR	R&TT		Support the University of Minnesota’s College of Agriculture in their request for funding from the Minnesota State Legislature, pending sufficient inclusion of soybean research and technology transfer funding.
2.05	IPR	R&TT		Supports funding from the Minnesota Legislature for the Northern Crops Institute (NCI).
2.06	IPR	R&TT		Supports assisting Identity Preserved Agriculture Production by seeking start-up funds and guidelines from the Minnesota State Legislature.
2.07	IPR	R&TT		Supports dedicated and continued investment from the Minnesota Legislature to the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) to assist in the development of value-added opportunities.
2.08	IPR	R&TT		Urges the Minnesota State Legislature to make a greater effort in developing Minnesota as the nation's leader in utilization of oilseed and grain for industrial applications by providing funding for demonstration projects
2.09	IPR	R&TT		Urges the Minnesota State Legislature to appropriate funds for dust control demonstration projects using soybean soapstock, a byproduct of the soyoil refining process.
2.1	IPR	R&TT		Supports state legislation to allow for the research and production of industrial hemp and industrial hemp products in Minnesota.
2.11	IPR	R&TT		Supports redirecting the primary focus of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) towards production agriculture.
2.12	IPR	R&TT		Supports establishing commodities oversight of the University of Minnesota Agricultural Rapid Response Fund.

2.13	IPR	R&TT	Supports the designation of one recognized entity as the official IP certification agency for the state of Minnesota.
3.01	AAC	IM	Supports the University of Minnesota and all other qualified institutions to continue to monitor the research, marketing, and educational effort to improve Minnesota's soybean protein and oil qualities to better meet the needs of Minnesota's soybean customers.
4.01	AA	DM	Additional applied livestock and poultry research and extension personnel to enable Minnesota producers to compete.
4.02	AA	DM	Supports livestock, poultry and aquaculture production in Minnesota by:
4.02.1	AA	DM	Opposing a moratorium on livestock production in Minnesota.
4.02.2	AA	DM	Making livestock zoning ordinances and regulations uniform statewide.
4.02.3	AA	DM	Encouraging livestock production be carried out in an environmentally responsible manner.
4.02.4	AA	DM	Supporting efforts to educate consumers and public officials about the benefits of animal agriculture.
4.03	AA	DM	Supports:
4.03.1	AA	DM	1. Livestock contracts written in plain language
4.03.2	AA	DM	2. Farmer lien priority in the event the owner of the commodity is files bankruptcy
4.03.3	AA	DM	3. A 72 hour walk away provision on production contracts
4.03.4	AA	DM	Opposes:
4.03.5	AA	DM	1. Confidentiality clauses
4.03.6	AA	DM	2. Arbitration as the only remedy in case of a dispute
4.04	AA	DM	Asks consideration that cost share dollars that are available to livestock producers for upgrading livestock facilities be made available to all producers who upgrade, replace or expand their operation to make it an environmentally viable entity.
4.05	AA	DM	Ask the EQB send any Technical Working Paper back to the authors to be independently peer reviewed and updated. And oppose any future public funding of the authors of a export until proper independent peer review and updating of the Technical Working Paper is completed.
4.06	AA	DM	Supports:

4.06.1	AA	DM		1. Legislation for mandatory reporting and producer access to all production contract information.
4.06.2	AA	DM		2. Active enforcement of currently existing anti-trust laws regarding consolidation and vertical integration in agriculture
4.07	AA	IM		Opposes a tax or tariff on feeder pigs coming from Canada.
4.08	AA	DM		Supports meat (beef, pork, poultry, and turkey) export programs that are actually U.S. farmers' value-added soybean export activities.
4.09	AA	DM		Continue to fully support and cooperate with the Minnesota farm organizations and livestock commodity groups in their efforts to continue to serve the interests of soybean producers in Minnesota.
4.1	AA	DM		Opposes indiscriminate passage of moratoriums by township governments in order to impede proposers of livestock facilities.
4.11	AA	DM		Supports development and passage of a state law that addresses the rights of due process for proposers in development of zoning & permitting decisions.
4.12	AA	DM		Supports requiring environmental groups be required to bring forth their views/opinions on TMDL/FEED LOT Regulations at public hearing as stakeholders and livestock producers are required to do.
4.13	AA	DM		Support a statewide standard of rules for livestock sitings, based upon research conducted in the areas of odor, manure management, setback and economic impact.
5.01	BIOD	DM		Supports AURI's Center for Producer-Owned Energy and its efforts to develop renewable energy from agricultural products in Minnesota.
5.02	BIOD	DM		Urges the Minnesota State Legislature to continue funding for biodiesel testing, promotion and usage.
5.03	BIOD	DM		Believes that all diesel fueled engines in Minnesota should be using <u>B5</u> or higher Biodiesel.
5.04	BIOD	DM		Work with American Soybean Association to have <u>B5</u> or higher Biodiesel blend be accepted as a national energy policy.
5.05	BIOD	DM	2010	Work to maintain a B5 or higher biodiesel fuel blend.
5.06	BIOD	DM		Support only voluntary labeling of public fuel pumps once the Biodiesel requirement is implemented.
5.07	BIOD	DM		Work to get industry recognition of biodiesel's non-toxic lubricity value, and biodiesel as the preferred industry choice.

5.08	BIOD	DM		Supports the use of biodiesel as a renewable fuel for electrical generation purposes.
5.09	BIOD	DM	2010	Support and promote the use of ag residues for the production of biobased methanol or ethanol for the use in biodiesel production. And seek local, state and national funding for its promotion and research.
5.10	BIOD	DM		Encourages:
5.10.1	BIOD	DM		1. The use of environmentally superior soy-based ink for all printing done by all government agencies.
5.10.2	BIOD	DM		2. Other print media and all other printers to use soy ink.
5.10.3	BIOD	DM		3. All that use soy ink to use the soyseal when possible.
5.10.4	BIOD	DM		4. Use of soybean oil as a dust suppressant for elevators and livestock facilities.
5.10.5	BIOD	DM		5. Use of soybased spray adjuvants by all applicators.
5.10.6	BIOD	DM		6. Use of soyoil soapstocks as a dust suppressant for gravel roads.
5.10.7	BIOD	DM		7. Expanded use of biodiesel uses such as B20, low blends and additives.
5.10.8	BIOD	DM		8. Use of biodegradable plastics to replace non-degradable petroleum based plastics
5.10.9	BIOD	DM		9. Continued use and development of soyoil, soyflour, and other soy products.
5.10.10	BIOD	DM		10. Development and use of alternative and renewable agricultural products which will protect our environment.
5.11	BIOD	DM		Encourage the United States Congress to promulgate additional incentives for the purpose of encouraging use of E85 and biodiesel fuels; renewable and produced in America.
5.12	BIOD	DM		Support continued research, development and testing of blends of renewable fuels, such as EB-Diesel to create the next generation of renewable fuels.
5.13	BIOD	DM		Believes and supports all renewable biofuels.
5.14	BIOD	DM		Supports capping Caribbean Basin Initiative ethanol imports at current levels and requiring the ethanol to be produced from CBI's domestic feedstocks.
5.15	BIOD	DM	Re 2011	Recognizes the Governor's and the Minnesota Legislature's leadership role in our nation's energy policies by passing a B20 Biodiesel requirement in Minnesota.
5.16	BIOD	DM	2010	Supports implementation of a B5 requirement in Minnesota & encourages similar policies in other states and eventually a federal policy.

5.17	BIOD	DM		Supports creating a Energy Reserve CRP Program which produces switch grass seed miscanthus and roots stock to be used to expand acres when the energy market creates a market for celluloses feedstock. (either switch grass or miscanthus is feedstock for methanol).
5.18	BIOD	DM		Supports the implementation of the Biodiesel Energy Policy within the state of Minnesota.
5.19	BIOD	DM		Support the Minnesota Legislative providing funding for a hydrogen plant which uses Ag wastes as feedstock to produce hydrogen to be used in making transportation fuels for Minnesota residence. (hydrogen is used in production of methanol which is used in biodiesel)
5.2	BIOD	DM		Supports the use of blender pumps for the use of higher percentages of biodiesel and ethanol as allowed by law.
5.21	BIOD	DM		Supports a wind energy tax that is generated in each county stay in each county and not be distributed across the state of Minnesota to other school districts. We are in favor of the tax being distributed to the local school districts proportionately in which the windmills are located.
5.22	BIOD	DM		Opposes any legislation which attempts to change air quality control standards from EPA control to CARB (California Air Resources Board) control.
5.23	BIOD	DM	2010	Supports the extension of the Federal \$1 per gallon credit for biodiesel retroactive to January 1, 2010. The credit to be extended for five years and change from blenders credit to production credit.
6.01	BTEC	IM		Supports the production, use, development, and exports of soybeans that are the result of the release of genetically enhanced technology that meets international approval.
6.02	BTEC	IM	Re 2011	Opposes any release of genetically enhanced technology until international approval of our major trading partners is granted and approved for human and animal consumption.
6.03	BTEC	IM		Urges providers of biotech enhanced seeds to consider that seeds of other crops can appear as foreign material in soybeans. Should educate and urge farmers to consider this fact when making seed buying decisions and to take care to protect our access to markets around the world.
6.04	BTEC	IM		Support the communication of benefits and implications of new genetically enhanced soybeans as they come into the market place.
6.05	BTEC	IM		Opposes the use of the Terminator Gene in any US soybean varieties.
6.06	BTEC	IM		Opposes the state of Minnesota restricting the planting of biotech derived soybeans that have the approval by the US and our major trading partners.

6.07	BTEC	IM	Supports the release for planting of new biotech varieties that will:
6.07.1	BTEC	IM	1. Make soybeans a more competitive crop in the US
6.07.2	BTEC	IM	2. Make the US soybean farmer more competitive internationally
6.08	BTEC	IM	Supports the development of Identity Preserved Non GMO markets with foreign countries to allow Minnesota soybean producers the opportunity to gain extra income from their crop
6.09	BTEC	IM	Supports biotech fees take into account production risks and be determined based on farmers' net income over expenses, not the commodities' gross potential income increase.
7.01	RFW	R&TT	Supports "Best Management Practices" have input and approval of a group of independent professionals including farm operators and managers.
7.02	RFW	R&TT	Supports adequate funding for a voluntary compliance program and opposes mandated wetland and agriculture restrictions.
7.03	RFW	R&TT	Urges that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture be granted total oversight of the agriculture compliance program.
7.04	RFW	R&TT	Supports the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to be the responsible state government agency for administering and regulating the standards for agriculture in Minnesota, as it relates to government relations.
7.05	RFW	R&TT	Urges the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to cooperate with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on all agricultural issues.
7.06	RFW	R&TT	Endorses the concept of Best Management Practices (BMP) based on sound science economics and practical management with agricultural groups involved in BMP development.
7.07	RFW	R&TT	Supports and encourages the use of external funding for the establishment of the grass buffer strip on a voluntary basis from sources, including the State of Minnesota, the Federal Government and any other public or private funding.
7.08	RFW	R&TT	Supports an agricultural crop protection product and fertilizer use clean-up state fund, provided the fees do not exceed one percent of the retail cost of the product.
7.08.1	RFW	R&TT	Does NOT support municipal and township regulations which are more restrictive than state and county regulations.

7.09	RFW	R&TT	Work to develop Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Standards that are scientifically sound and are practical for farmers to implement, and the US-EPA must be able to cite the specific peer reviewed scientific research that proves that the impairment threshold, such as the phosphorous index, is justified.
7.10	RFW	R&TT	MSGAs Supports:
7.10.1	RFW	R&TT	1. The state of Minnesota conducting a thorough re-evaluation of designated uses for all waters of the state
7.10.2	RFW	R&TT	2. All waters of the state being listed as to the actual proven designated use;
7.10.3	RFW	R&TT	3. The use of peer reviewed repeatable scientific methods, processes & data in determining impairments, sources of impairments, local allocations and remediation
7.10.4	RFW	R&TT	4. Determination, allocation and inclusion of natural, background and/or legacy levels of impairments in the TMDL
7.10.5	RFW	R&TT	5. The state of Minnesota conducting use attainability analysis along with cost benefit analysis before the implementation phase of the TMDL begins
7.10.6	RFW	R&TT	6. Agriculture and all other stake holders being active participants in the assessment, development and implementation phases of the TMDL
7.10.7	RFW	R&TT	7. An equitable fee allocation and distribution system for the remediation of impaired waters if and when peer-reviewed repeatable scientific methods, processes & data verifies those impaired waters and their sources of impairment and when attainable analysis and cost benefit analysis prove that implementation of the TMDL is feasible; and
7.10.8	RFW	R&TT	8. Agriculture's active participation in the distribution of resources for the implementation of TMDLs
7.11	RFW	R&TT	Supports a requirement for consideration of background loadings in all TMDL studies, plans and legislation.
7.12	RFW	R&TT	Urges as government agencies develop flood control projects, it be vitally important that any damages caused to surrounding property owners be fairly compensated before public funds are made available for the flood control project.
7.13	RFW	R&TT	Ask the Minnesota Legislature to require the municipalities in the Minnesota River Basin to deliver a maximum of 1 ppm phosphorous and the setting up of a fund to be used as grants for these projects.

7.14	RFW	R&TT	Supports that any group or organization, whether for profit or non-profit that files a petition for an EAW or EIS be responsible for additional costs incurred by the EAW or EIS process if the outcome rules in favor of the project.
7.15.1	RFW	R&TT	Supports the concept of Common Sense Environmentalism which recognizes and balances the positives and negatives of all ecosystems for the betterment of society.
7.15.1.1	RFW	R&TT	1. Humans are the stewards and manager of our environment.
7.15.1.2	RFW	R&TT	2. Our environment is a composite of dynamic ecosystems that interact.
7.15.1.3	RFW	R&TT	3. Good stewardship and management of our environment is necessary for the well being of mankind.
7.15.1.4	RFW	R&TT	4. Agricultural ecosystems are an important component of our environment because they supply food, fiber and renewable resources that are critical to the well being of mankind.
7.15.1.5	RFW	R&TT	5. Stewardship and management of agricultural ecosystems are a vital part of supporting the well being of mankind.
7.15.1.6	RFW	R&TT	6. Soil erosion and nutrient loses to aquatic ecosystems are a natural part of all terrestrial ecosystems.
7.15.1.7	RFW	R&TT	7. The recycling of plant nutrients is critical to the sustainability of agricultural ecosystems.
7.15.1.8	RFW	R&TT	8. Agricultural pesticides are a part of a sustainable agricultural system.
7.15.1.9	RFW	R&TT	Common Sense Environmentalism promotes:
7.15.1.10	RFW	R&TT	a. Stewardship and conservation practices that minimize soil erosion and nutrient loses; while, maintaining economically viable agricultural production systems.
7.15.1.11	RFW	R&TT	b. The management of agricultural ecosystems in a manner that allows for economically sustainable food, fiber and renewable resource production.
7.15.1.12	RFW	R&TT	c. Agricultural production systems that recycle plant nutrients.
7.15.1.13	RFW	R&TT	d. Sound science in establishment of regulatory residue standards for agricultural pesticides.
7.15.1.14	RFW	R&TT	e. The management of agricultural pesticides in a manner that minimizes their interaction with other ecosystems.

7.16	RFW	R&TT	Believes that Agriculture should not be held responsible for pollution caused by natural conditions when dealing with TMDL Legislation; that natural loadings be separately identified and properly considered in the TMDL process, and that natural loadings consider climate and ecosystem dynamics.
7.17	RFW	R&TT	Believes that Minnesota’s landowners or farmers should not be held responsible for negative water quality or public health consequences resulting from the establishment of wetlands or wildlife habitat.
7.18	RFW	R&TT	Believes that “Common Detection” should be redefined in the Pesticide Management Plan based on some level of a scientifically established Health Risk Limit.
7.19	RFW	R&TT	Believes there is need for research that ensures that climatic effects on flow and sediment loads are properly factored into TMDL studies.
7.2	RFW	R&TT	Believes there is a need for research to determine the net effect of phosphorus bound by sediment on surface water quality.
7.21	RFW	R&TT	Supports a blind scientific peer review process for all of the white papers, which reviewed issues related to the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia, that were produced by the US EPA Region 4 Office in Atlanta.
7.22	RFW	R&TT	Opposes NRCS use of the wetland determination process as a deterrent to improvements to drainage systems which may produce water quality and crop production benefits.
7.23	RFW	R&TT	Supports CSP payment criteria be based on soil erosion losses potential and be outcome based.
7.24	RFW	R&TT	Supports creating a long-term revolving capital pool for improving subsurface tile drainage of working agricultural lands.
7.25	RFW	R&TT	Opposes the use and promotion of Point-Nonpoint Source Water Quality Pollution credit trading.
7.26	RFW	R&TT	Supports the requirement that point-point source water quality pollution trading be automatically available to any new point source permit holders that have lower discharge concentrations than existing point sources.
7.27	RFW	R&TT	Supports elimination of the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA) 25-year rule for drainage systems that effect agricultural lands. (At the present time Agricultural lands and drainage systems are exempt from WCA oversight. However, wetlands that are created from drainage systems that haven’t been maintained or cleaned for 25 years come under WCA oversight. Cleaning or maintenance can’t be done without going through the replacement process.)

7.28	RFW	R&TT	Supports a requirement of using Aerial photos from the 1980 to 1990 time frame for making wetland determinations. (December 1985 is the point of reference for determining whether acres are wetlands for swampbuster. NRCS typically is using the most recent 10-year period. Increased precipitation in the Midwest over the last 2 decades makes it more likely that acres could be pegged as wetlands. If an erroneous determination is made, the burden of proof is put back on the farmer to prove the 1985 conditions. Requiring a 10-year time frame around 1985 to be used can reduce this burden.)
7.29	RFW	R&TT	Supports eliminating the requirement of an in the growing season field inspection for wetland determinations by NRCS 1026 regulations.
7.3	RFW	R&TT	Support refocusing state and federal conservation programs back to those that focus on the sustainability of soil productivity.
7.31	RFW	R&TT	Supports the requirement that all public and private entities maintain their drainage ditches at the proper designed depth.
7.32	RFW	R&TT	Supports an economic review to the effectiveness of Minnesota's Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA).
7.33	RFW	R&TT	Opposes the use of any dedicated funds for the acquisition of wildlife lands.
7.34	RFW	R&TT	Supports restricting the rights of cities to annex land without the landowners consent.
7.35	RFW	R&TT	Supports an agricultural exemption of the Wetlands Conservation ACT (WCA) rules and opposes efforts to change it to a waiver.
7.36	RFW	R&TT	Supports only enrolling or re-enrolling environmentally sensitive land in national and state conservation programs.
7.37	RFW	R&TT	Opposes the inclusion of permanent easements in government conservation programs.
7.38	RFW	R&TT	Supports state funding for the establishment a statewide database of accurate 3-D maps using a high resolution process such as LiDAR. (<i>Light Detection And Ranging Laser Radar</i> , also known as <i>Airborne Laser Swath Mapping (ALSM)</i>). This is used for detecting extremely small changes in the landscape over time, such as stream bank erosion. This will provide very useful information in defending agriculture when dealing with the onslaught of turbidity TMDLs.)
7.38	RFW	R&TT	Supports placing a moratorium on the implementation phase of all Fecal Coliform, Dissolved Oxygen, and Turbidity TMDLs until such time that the existing standards for these impairments are determined to be appropriate, and the research is completed to definitely allocate cause and effect.
7.39	RFW	R&TT	Supports refocusing state and federal conservation programs back to the sustainability of soil fertility and productivity.

7.4	RFW	R&TT	Opposes funding federal and state watershed monitoring and water quality demonstration grants and programs, with cost share practices, until those practices are determined, through research, to be effective in improving water quality within that watershed.
7.41	RFW	R&TT	Opposes water quality trading involving agricultural processors or producers, unless agricultural producers have total control over the process and practices implemented have been determined, through research, to actually offset the water quality impairments being considered.
7.42	RFW	R&TT	Urges the Minnesota Legislature enact and fund a program of drainage research at the University of Minnesota experiment stations. This research should develop methods and practices that will enable Minnesota farmers to maintain and enhance the investment they have made in Minnesota's economic infrastructure through farmland drainage.
7.43	RFW	R&TT	Support legislation that grassland would be considered private property unless posted otherwise.
7.44	RFW	R&TT	Opposes the creation of a state issued conservation plan for farmers even if implementation is voluntary.
7.45	RFW	R&TT	Supports agricultural groups taking the necessary legal action to ensure that the MPCA follows all provisions of the MN Clean Water Legacy Act. This includes agricultural stakeholder involvement in the TMDL process, standards development and properly accounting for natural background levels in source allocations.
7.46	RFW	R&TT	Supports using the sales tax for the Clean Water Legacy Act funds for research to determine cause and affect relationships for water quality impairments and for research to establish natural background levels for agricultural landscape.
7.47	RFW	R&TT	Supports directing the sales tax for the Clean Water Legacy Act funds to correct known point source causes and opposes directing monies to TMDL implementation plans which have not properly established cause of the water quality impairments.
7.48	RFW	R&TT	Opposes the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan which calls for a 45% reduction of Nitrogen and Phosphorus to the Gulf because it is not consistent with the scientific studies in the Science Advisory Board report.
7.49	RFW	R&TT	Opposes development of stream and river nutrient standards in Minnesota that are based on the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan because it is not consistent with the findings of the Science Advisory Board report.
7.5	RFW	R&TT	2010 Supports the repeal of the Wetland Conservation Act.

7.51	RFW	R&TT	2010	Supports a requirement that TMDL allocations be redone when new science indicates the existing allocations are incorrect.
7.52	RFW	R&TT	2010	Opposes the use of public money for the development of wetlands that contribute to methyl mercury impairments.
7.53	RFW	R&TT	2010	Opposes the establishment, by any unit of government, water quality impairment taxes or fees.
7.54	RFW	R&TT	2010	Supports new research efforts, funded by the 3/8% sales tax fund, to develop efficient low cost Individual Sewage Treatment Systems for rural residences; and , updating regulatory standards and criteria to allow installation of the new systems.
7.55	RFW	R&TT	2010	Supports requiring LGU (Local Government Units) to inform farmers of their right to self-certify compliance with Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) for cropland.
7.56	RFW	R&TT	2010	Supports a focused use of the MN Clean Water Legacy Act 3/8% state tax funds to work towards correcting or improving pollution concerns versus the broad-based acquisition of agricultural land.
7.57	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as the sole agency making wetland determinations on agricultural land.
7.58	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports significantly reducing the number of employees of the MPCA, DNR and Board of Water and Soil Resources. <i>Explanation: There are a number of areas that these agencies overlap on oversight and regulation. In addition, these agencies employ many scientists; whose work should be done by academic or independent entities to ensure greater accountability.</i>
7.59	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports a requirement that the scientific research, done by any government agencies, be outsourced if that work is being used to developed rules and regulations. <i>Explanation: Rules and regulations, developed by most government agencies, are usually based on work by their own scientists or professionals. This has the potential to be biased. It would be wise to outsource this research to involve unbiased individuals.</i>
7.6	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports a requirement that MPCA public meetings be required to accept verbal, as well as, written testimony or input. Recording of the public meetings should be required. <i>Explanation: Agriculture groups were recently made aware that the MPCA and TMDL contractors are ignoring verbal input, concerns or questions by citizens at public meetings, if it was not submitted in writing.</i>
7.61	RFW	R&TT	2011	Support the DNR should be enforcing non compliance issues with permanent easements equally between owners getting state and/or federal payments and owners not getting federal payments. <i>Explanation: When Permanent Easement land is sold to a non farmer the enforcement of non compliance is tough to do since withholding government payments is not an issue for a non farmer.</i>

7.62	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports a requirement that all public drainage ditches, road ditches or waterways be prevented from any blockage or restriction.
7.63	RFW	R&TT	2011	Opposes the EPA requirement for NPDES Permits for pesticide applications in crop production. <i>Explanation: This policy duplicates the already stringent application requirements that exist on all pesticide labels.</i>
7.64	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports a requirement that Minnesota NPDES Permitting not be any more restrictive than Federal NPDES permits. <i>Explanation: More restrictive Minnesota NPDES permits will reduce the competitiveness of Minnesota farmers and increases the costs to Minnesota taxpayers. If the Minnesota permits are not exactly the same as the Federal, a duplicate permit infrastructure is needed.</i>
7.65	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports updating the MPCA 70-50 Rules to match the meaning and intent of the Minnesota Clean Water Legacy Act. <i>Explanation: The Minnesota Clean Water Legacy Act was passed in 2006 to provide a framework for MPCA to implement the TMDL-Impaired waters process of the Federal Clean Water Act. The 70-50 Rules need to be updated to eliminate the conflicts and inconsistencies in language between the two.</i>
7.66	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports a requirement that wetlands, government owned lands and private conservation lands should be used as a first choice, instead of farmland, when routing public utilities and road ways.
7.67	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports a data integrity act which would require that all water quality monitoring data generated in support of Clean Water Legacy Act activities conform to Good Laboratory Practices and Good Field Practices methodology.
7.68	RFW	R&TT	2011	Supports a requirement that the MPCA establish “Reasonable Assurance” prior to the completion of any TMDL that is submitted for EPA approval. MSGA opposes the availability of Clean Water Legacy Act funding for TMDL implementation to be cited when “Reasonable Assurance” is being established.
7.69	RFW	R&TT	2011	Support changes to the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act which would restore the legislative intent of 1991 to protect and enhance agriculture practices by allowing wetland exemptions to apply as stipulated in 1991 whereby farmers enrolled in the Farm Program would only need approval from NRCS to drain and mitigate wetland alternations.
7.70	RFW	ADM		Oppose any state agency charging any overhead cost to any AFREC projects or any AFREC funds collected through tonnage fees.

8.01	FPNI	ADM		Pursue the Commodity Credit Corporation to create a low interest loan program to farmers for the purchase of stock for new construction or existing value-added cooperatives or ventures. CCC rules and regulations could be fashioned similarly to the existing CCC Facility Loan Program that is currently being offered.
8.02	FPNI	ADM		Supports adequate funding for FSA credit programs including:
8.02.1	FPNI	ADM		1. Increase of guaranteed loan limits.
8.02.2	FPNI	ADM		2. Increase of the subsidy rate on guaranteed loans.
8.02.3	FPNI	ADM		3. Interest Assistance for Guaranteed Farm ownership loans.
8.02.4	FPNI	ADM		4. Extended lifetime loan eligibility for FSA credit programs.
8.02.5	FPNI	ADM		5. Waiver of the 1% guaranteed fee for guaranteed loans. (PC)
8.02.6	FPNI	ADM		6. Interest Assistance on loans for building farmer owned grain facilities
8.02.7	FPNI	ADM		7. When considering median farm size, only active farm operations that derive at least 25% of total gross income from farming be counted
8.03	FPNI	ADM		Supports efforts to update and modernize Minnesota and upper Mississippi waterways to handle the increased barge size and traffic
8.04	FPNI	IM	Re 2011	Supports Upper Mississippi Waterways Association.
8.05	FPNI	IM	Re 2011	Urges the United States rail service to continue to provide single-car service on a weekly basis to customers who cannot accommodate a 110-car train.
8.06	FPNI	ADM		Favors legislation supporting young or beginning farmers (which may include low interest rate loans, participation in farm management programs, capital gains, tax credits for someone who sells their land or machinery to a young farmer) and be active in making and passing young and beginning farmer legislation at the state and federal level. When considering median farm size, only active farmer operations that derive at least 25% of total gross income from farming be counted.
8.07	FPNI	ADM		Opposes deregulation of the electric industry.
8.08	FPNI	ADM		Urges the Administration and the Legislature to approve an allocation of state bond proceeds to recapitalize the Port Development Assistance Program during the next Session.
8.09	FPNI	ADM	2010	Supports the Farm Storage Facility Loan program with this exception, Recommends to USDA-FSA to establish terms of the loans to be the same regardless of the dollar amount of the loan.

8.11	FPNI	ADM		Pursue the elimination of the 1031-IRS tax free exchanges.
8.12	FPNI	ADM		Supports rule changes to allow farmers to reserve an LDP rate on their soybean crop once harvest season has started. Payment process to begin once grain is harvested and loan eligible.
8.12.1	FPNI	ADM		Encourages the USDA-FSA agency to enforce the 25% cap on CRP acres.
8.13	FPNI	ADM		Supports allowing a soybean producer to lock in a Posted-County-Price before, during or after harvest within the marketing year. No payments made until after production evidence is available.
8.131	FPNI	IM	2011	Support all free trade agreements that help increase soybean and meat exports.
8.14	FPNI	ADM		Supports normal trade relations between the United States and Cuba to open markets for Minnesota soybean farmers.
8.15	FPNI	ADM		Supports current beneficial interest rules regarding LDP eligibility & marketing loan gains.
8.16	FPNI	ADM		Opposes removing the word “navigable” from the Federal Clean Water Act or redefining it to include all waters.
8.17	FPNI	ADM	2010	Supports changes to in federal tax law to treat long call options that are tied to a cash sale the same as a long put option with gains taxed as ordinary income and losses 100% deductible in the year they are incurred.
8.18	FPNI	ADM	2011	Supports landowner's right to accept or decline public hunting (walk-in hunting) for enrolled CRP contracts.
8.19	FPNI	ADM	2011	Opposes any mandatory public hunting as a qualification for renewing present or enrolling future CRP contracts.
8.2	FPNI	ADM	2011	Opposes any mandatory public hunting for enrolled CRP Contracts.
8.22	FPNI	ADM	2011	Supports FCIC and RMA to re-review the actuarial rating process and rates for center pivot irrigating practices on all crops on a state by state basis.
9.01	MNIS	ADM		Supports education funding, relying on property taxes based on a house, garage and 1 acre and no use of ag land, if the basic education levy and voter approved excess levy continue to exist.
9.02	MNIS	IM	Re 2011	Supports sustaining a strong infrastructure in rural Minnesota, including maintaining and improving roads, waterways, rail and highways needed to transport our grain and products to markets.

9.04	MNIS	ADM		Supports rural paved highways with year-round 10 ton weight limits, and retention of state highway funds to sustain them.
9.05	MNIS	ADM		Supports potential legislation allowing agricultural producers during harvest season to permit 10% axle weight overage on all roads from field to market.
9.06	MNIS	ADM		Believes producers should be exempt from MDOT weight ticket inspections at their local elevators.
9.07	MNSI	ADM		Opposes elevators being forced to show weight tickets to Minnesota Department of Transportation.
9.08	MNIS	ADM		Supports revenue derived from the state tax on fuels and motor vehicle excise tax be left in the road and bridge fund rather than be transferred to the State's general fund.
9.09	MNIS	ADM		Urges the Minnesota Department of Transportation to investigate the availability of railroad cars and the bidding process to obtain available cars to move grain.
9.1	MNIS	IM	Re 2011	Support the expansion of Shipping mid-west soybeans and soy products.(West Coast, Gulf and St. Lawrence Seaway)
9.11	MNIS	ADM		Supports the continuation of "dedicated fund revenues" for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture as these funds are paid by the users.
9.12	MNIS	ADM		Supports a substantial expansion of 4-H, FFA, Ag in the Classroom and other quality agricultural programs in grades K-12 and vocational education.
9.13	MNIS	ADM		Recommends that Minnesota Department of Transportation use soybean oil as a weed control and soil stabilization product to replace the present petroleum based product.
9.14	MNIS	ADM		Supports Lien Recording and searches still be done through the local County Courthouse.
9.15	MNIS	ADM		Support the extension of MAELC, as it is a vital source of funding for agricultural education programs and coordination.
9.16	MNIS	ADM		Support continued State of Minnesota funding earmarked for high school agricultural education programs through the vocational secondary program. And support the existing vocational secondary program, or a revised formula for the continuation of funding for high school agricultural education program.
9.17	MNIS	ADM		Support the continuation of Agricultural Education grant programs for agricultural instructors. Existing agricultural education grant programs at the Minnesota Dept. of Children, Families, and Learning have been targeted for elimination.

9.18	MNIS	ADM		Support increased tuition assistance and program expansion components for Farm Business Management to expand the reach of this important program.
9.19	MNIS	ADM		Work with all farm organizations and ag related companies to promote a positive image of agriculture and our food supply.
9.2	MNIS	ADM		Supports the including of agricultural sciences as a fulfillment as part of the science requirement of the new high school graduation rules.
9.21	MNIS	ADM		Urges that hunting and recreational use land be given a tax valuation that reflects its current market value.
9.22	MNIS	ADM		Supports holding violators liable for costs associated with cleanup of meth lab or other illegal drug manufacturing and/or distribution.
9.23	MNIS	ADM		Supports not holding innocent landowners responsible for costs associated with unlawful acts committed by others on their property.
9.25	MNIS	ADM		Opposes establishment of Initiative and Referenda in the state of Minnesota.
9.26	MNIS	ADM	Re 2011	MSGGA opposes the loss of Homestead Credit on agricultural land.
9.27	MNIS	ADM		Supports holding regulatory agency personnel to the same level of accountability for misrepresenting permit requirements as holders have for meeting permit requirements.
9.28	MNIS	ADM		Supports funds spent for mass transit but in respect to the importance of state funds spent for safe and efficient movement of raw and finished products through the state.
9.29	MNIS	ADM		Supports an increase in the mileage exemption for heavy highway vehicle use tax from 7,500 miles to 20,000 miles for agricultural vehicles.
9.3	MNIS	ADM		Supports changes in the state law that will establish guidelines and parameters for roadside inspections and weighing so as to minimize both officer discretion and grower inconvenience.
9.31	MNIS	ADM	2010	Opposes first purchasers being required to remit to MDA all of their customers' names; addresses; purchased bushels amounts; dates for all purchase transactions and amounts checked off for every commodity purchased.
9.32	MNIS	ADM	2010	Supports real estate sold must maintain its current tax status when sold to Government entities or nonprofit groups or organizations, exempting religious institutions up to 20 acres, as long as they maintain ownership
9.33	MNIS	ADM	2010	Opposes the use of Eminent Domain for taking wind, mineral, water, or solar rights.

9.34	MNIS	ADM	2010	Supports the elimination of the Equal access to Justice Law.
9.35	MNIS	ADM	2010	Supports exempting Ag Equipment from having a pilot car so long as equipment has proper slow-moving vehicle emblems and/or warning lights.
9.36	MNIS	ADM	2010	Supports the State of Minnesota enforce the law which states that any land over ten acres, permanently taken out of production by a government agency, which requires an agricultural impact statement be submitted to the MDA Commissioner.
9.37	MNIS	ADM	2011	Urges the MDA Commissioner to follow existing statutes that call for the MDA Commissioner to evaluate the impact to the state of farmland loss due to state acquisition.
9.38	MNIS	ADM	2011	Supports no net loss of farmland to the Department of Natural Resources whether the DNR would acquire the land by direct acquisition or by charitable gift.
9.39	MNIS	ADM	2011	Supports a requirement that farmland purchased with the 3/8% sales tax dollar needs to have a scientific defensible, and economically viable, basis for improving water quality or habitat.
9.40	MNIS	ADM	2011	MSGGA supports continued full legislative funding for MDA.
10.01	MACO	ADM	Re 2011	Work to maintain MSGGA membership at 3,599 members by end of fiscal year, which will keep Minnesota's voice strong on policy issues.
10.02	MACO	ADM		Emphasize legislative activities by building coalitions with other agricultural organizations to develop a grassroots lobbying effort and increasing its presence at the state capitol.
10.04	MACO	ADM		Continue communication activities to inform and educate the Minnesota soybean producers as to where and how checkoff dollars are invested.
10.05	MACO	ADM		Support our state and national Political Action Committee (PAC) with non-checkoff funds utilized to support issues and individual candidates supportive of MSGGA policies.
10.06	MACO	ADM		Urges the research and documenting of facts relating to soybeans value relative to US farmers' labors and industry, and relay this to public and farmers in communications and promotions.
10.07	MACO	ADM		Commends the Minnesota Corn Growers Association for their cooperative and inclusive leadership in joint efforts towards the implementation of Federal Energy Bill that included biodiesel legislation as well as ethanol.
10.08	MACO	ADM	2010	Commends Bill Zurn for his service as President of MSGGA, his dedication and diligence have been instrumental in maintaining and enhancing the integrity and effectiveness of Minnesota Soybean.

- 10.09 MACO ADM Continue Minnesota Corn Growers Association and the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association either having annual meetings together or back-to-back meetings to save time for the membership, mileage, along with other savings.
- 10.1 MACO ADM Supports past ASA Directors and other ex officious sometimes included on ASA's various committees, task forces, etc, but only current ASA directors be appointed as the Chairpersons. And as such ASA policy developing committees, task forces etc should at least be comprised by two-thirds (2/3) majority of current ASA Directors.
- 10.11 MACO ADM Urges that each ASA Director have opportunity to be appointed to equal number of ASA's Committees, Task Forces etc before these positions are appointed to others beyond ASA's Directors.
- 10.12 MACO ADM Urges ASA's Presidents appoint and distribute current ASA directors to committees, task forces etc proportional to their states' representation on the ASA Board of Directors.
- 10.13 MACO ADM Support and work towards the continued viability of ASA as a strong national, state-based, farmer membership based national soybean policy organization.
- 10.14 MACO ADM Support the continuation of the national soybean checkoff program as written and defined by the 1990 Soybean Checkoff Act & Order.
- 10.15 MACO ADM Oppose individual states, regardless of size, from promoting national policies and programs without first submitting to ASA Delegate Body for discussion, review and approval with other states.
- 10.16 MACO ADM Endorses a long range goal for agricultural education and urges our members to provide active support for its projects and activities on local, state and national levels that will help create new programs in communities not yet served by agricultural education and FFA and ensure the quality and high performance of current programs providing personal, academic and career education in agriculture.
- 10.17 MACO ADM Supports ASA & USB implement a joint committee structure with proportional number of committee members
- 10.19 MACO ADM Supports the implementation of a USB-ASA coordination Committee as called for in the SPARC Law, that this committee meet at least twice a year.
- 10.21 MACO ADM Supports amending ASA Bylaw Article XVI, Section 1. It states "These bylaws may be amended by the Board of Directors." The amendment would state "These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the ASA Delegates body. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the ASA Secretary to be sent out thirty (30) days before the annual meeting of ASA to all ASA members."