I. EDUCATION

General Education Statement 1.001

We recognize that education is of vital importance to the welfare of the individual and society. We believe that every reasonable effort should be made to develop the potential of each person. (04)

Basic Education 1.002

We recommend the legislature periodically review the basic education program. As Farm Bureau members, we favor a basic education program that will:

1. Give precedence to thorough training in the fundamentals (reading, writing, arithmetic and self discipline), while providing a balanced curriculum needed for present day living, including vocational opportunities.

2. Give greater emphasis to moral and spiritual values being taught at home.

3. Give increased emphasis to the teaching of the fundamentals of the American republic and citizens' responsibility and involvement.

4. Give increased emphasis to the teaching of the fundamentals of free enterprise in our economic system.

5. Give increased emphasis to the fact that agriculture is a major contributor to the economic system.

6. Present an accurate and realistic view of the care, feeding and use of domestic farm animals.

7. Present an accurate and realistic view of land stewardship and the conservation of agricultural lands.

8. We believe drivers education is an essential part of road safety and support drivers education as part of the school curriculum. (13)

The annual legislative review process mandated by the Oregon Educational Act should require that student performance data be reported in a manner that allows timely evaluation of each of the specific sets of teaching practices that are being initiated in the state. We continue to support local control, cost effectiveness, and measurable academic goals throughout all publicly funded schools of learning. We support parental involvement over course content and values instruction. We urge the dedication of school funds, resources and personnel to attain the highest level of academic achievement by people, including vocational training.
The use of a 12-month school should be at the option of the local school district. We believe local districts should have the option of providing kindergarten, lunch programs, sports or other school activities outside of the basic requirements for education.

Teacher Agricultural Education 1.003

1 We support the accurate presentation of the agricultural industry in Oregon and beyond. Since a large part of Oregon’s economy is agriculture based, teachers should present the factual information on Oregon’s agricultural industry and disseminate it to their students.
2 All K-12 teachers should be required as a part of their continuing education to take a course on the role that agriculture and the natural resource industry plays in the wellbeing of the citizens and economy of Oregon.
3 Approved courses are those sponsored by agriculture and/or natural resource associations and accredited by the state system of higher education, such as the Summer Agriculture Institute. (01), (04), (06)

Elementary School Agricultural Education 1.104

1 We support the Oregon Department of Education creating a requirement that all school districts include at least one unit on agriculture as part of their K-5 educational curriculum to promote agriculture literacy. (09)

College Terms 1.100

1 In order to provide students with the opportunity to earn money for school expenses and provide needed farm labor, we favor the quarterly system in Northwest colleges and universities.

Community Colleges and Higher Education 1.110

1 We urge continued emphasis of the community college program of vocational, technical academic and/or adult training as the need is determined by the local area. We ask that the community colleges place more emphasis on technical training according to the needs of the local community.
2 We support election rather than appointment for members of the State Board of Higher Education. Members should be elected on a nonpartisan basis by districts.
3 We recommend that out of state students pay the full cost of their education in Oregon. (05)

Oregon State University 1.120

1 We strongly support adequate legislative funding for the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences, College of Forestry and College of Veterinary Medicine.
We strongly support OSU's statewide public service programs of the Agricultural Experiment Stations, the Extension Service and the Forestry Research Lab.

We support the re-establishment of the Department of Entomology at OSU, or one to be established in cooperation with another department at OSU.

To assure that the needs of production agriculture in Oregon are met we urge the OSU College of Agriculture to enact a hiring policy for all professors that provides for continual 12-month salaried appointments.

Policy No. 1.130, Internship Program, was deleted in 2004

ROTC

We support the continuation of the ROTC programs on university and college campuses.

Teacher Continuing Education

Emphasis should be placed on teacher training through participation in workshops and programs which enhance a teachers' teaching ability.

Sabbaticals

The university system should ensure that teaching, research and other services provided by a university professor or extension agent on sabbatical are continued during their absence.

Teacher Tenure

We support the creation of a more meaningful teacher evaluation system.

Career and Technical Education

We support the concept and continued emphasis of career and technical education in Oregon Public Schools. We believe instructional assistance from the community is a resource that should be utilized for career and technical education, instruction and program evaluation. We support certification of qualified persons to teach career and technical courses.

Policy No. 1.305, English Language Courses, was deleted in 2008

Student Work Experience

We strongly support work experience and internship programs on and off campus. We are strongly opposed to any rules or limitations that damage the opportunities of students to safely participate in work experience and internship programs.
Local Involvement 1.400
1  We urge county Farm Bureaus to initiate programs which will result in increased familiarity and cooperation with our schools through year-round interest, regular attendance at school board and budget meetings, and attendance at all times to the problems of education at state and local levels.
6  We recommend that schools use lay membership advisory committees to support and promote educational decisions and practices. (04)

School District Reorganization 1.410
1  We favor continued effort and encouragement towards voluntary reorganization which will result in more effective and efficient education programs.
4  We are unalterably opposed to any form of compulsory school district reorganization or unification which overrides the wishes of the majority of voters in each district concerned.
7  We strongly support the right of any existing school district, by majority vote, to nullify a forced consolidation of their district into a unified district.

Charter Schools 1.450
1  We support charter schools and encourage their utilization in all school districts. (07), (09)

Educational Vouchers 1.455
1  We support education vouchers and encourage their utilization in all school districts. (11)

School District Transportation Fee 1.500
1  We oppose allowing a school district to charge parents of students for transportation cost for primary and secondary education.

Policy No. 1.510, was moved to Policy No. 2.950 in 2004

Education Service Districts 1.600
1  We oppose any forced consolidation of Education Service Districts by the Oregon Education Department and/or the legislature. (09)