

# 2021 ASA POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Approved February 25, 2021

## TITLE A – FARM SUPPORT, DOMESTIC MARKETS AND TRANSPORTATION

### PREAMBLE

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

### FARM INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMS

#### General

- A-1. ASA supports a soybean program that:
  - a. assists farmers to better manage risk
  - b. provides planting flexibility to enable U.S. soybean farmers to base their decisions on market signals
  - c. responds to environmental and conservation concerns
  
- A-2. ASA supports a Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) with sufficient ability to provide benefits in a timely manner. Any program funded by the CCC should primarily accrue benefits to agricultural producers. (2021)
  
- A-3. ASA will work closely with other farm organizations to enhance risk management tools and strengthen the farm safety net in the next Farm Bill. (2019)
  
- A-4. ASA supports maintaining decoupling under the ARC and PLC programs. (2017)
  
- A-5. ASA urges USDA to adopt a uniform definition for a Beginning Farmer and Rancher to be used by all agencies within the department. We suggest that any definition used by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) adds these provisions directing the FSA to allow a producer

to exclude certain years from their beginning farmer status if the producer meets one of the following criteria:

- while they are under the age of 18 (including the crop year you turn 18)
- while they are on full time active duty in the U.S. military
- while they are in a post-secondary education program (the post-secondary education exclusion cannot exceed 5 years) (2020)

### **Price and Revenue Supports**

- A-6. ASA supports programs that do not distort planting decisions and which are WTO compliant.
- A-7. ASA supports non-recourse marketing loans.
- A-8. ASA supports the continuation of beneficial interest status in commodities for producers marketing through cooperatives at the time they receive a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) or Marketing Loan Gain under the marketing loan program. (2021)
- A-9. ASA supports equitable treatment of soybean producers in the development and implementation of the federal disaster and low-price assistance programs.
- A-10. ASA supports the use of federal crop insurance records and/or production evidence from similar surrounding farms to update yields for federal farm programs. (2017)
- A-11. 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 except under the current exemption for double-cropping practices. (2015)
- A-12. The CCC should not assess checkoff fees on soybeans under loan unless they are forfeited to the CCC.
- A-13. ASA supports the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and opposes reopening this legislation. (2019)
- A-14. ASA supports keeping the agricultural titles and the nutrition title in the next Farm Bill. (2019)

- A-15. ASA supports economic assistance when significant market losses occur as a result of trade retaliation, restrictions, or pandemics. (2021)
- A-16. ASA supports changing the acreage reporting dates of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) from July 15 to July 22. (2020)

#### **Payment Limitations and Eligibility**

- A-17. ASA opposes imposing means testing on federal farm payments and loans made to U.S. farmers.
- A-18. ASA opposes restricting eligibility for marketing loan gains or LDP's.
- A-19. ASA supports the definition of actively engaged in farming in effect under the 2018 Farm Bill. (2019)
- A-20. ASA supports individual eligibility of a producer and spouse for equal program benefits.
- A-21. ASA supports eligibility of soybeans grown for non-traditional uses for all payments for which commodity soybeans are eligible.

#### **CROP INSURANCE**

- A-22. ASA urges protection of crop insurance, which serves as a valuable risk management tool, and private sector delivery. ASA supports enhancements to expand coverage and product offerings at an affordable cost and address regional needs while maintaining actuarial soundness. (2020)
- A-23. ASA supports consideration of additional crop insurance options to improve risk management, including increasing support at the higher levels of coverage, reviewing the potential for multiyear disaster coverage, and expanding development of revenue protection programs. (2020)
- A-24. ASA urges the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to establish representative farmer advisory committees at both the federal and state levels to provide input into the process of evaluating and revising farming methods to be included for coverage.

- A-25. ASA supports work towards the following changes being made to the crop insurance program.
- a. On land rated as high risk due to a specific peril, such as flooding, we recommend the attachment of a rider for that peril which will allow the producer to buy up additional coverage for other perils at regular rates.
  - b. The actual loss in crop value attributed to crop quantity and quality discounts should be fully covered by crop insurance. (2021)
- A-26. ASA supports timely processing and payment of crop insurance indemnities. (2021)
- A-27. ASA recommends that RMA establish a comprehensive and fair policy for double crop soybeans. ASA supports efforts of states or regions that double-crop soybeans to compile the production and yield data necessary to allow FSA and RMA to adjust final planting dates without penalty on a sound actuarial basis. (2015)
- A-28. ASA recommends that in counties where the practice of double-cropping is recognized as an acceptable practice that RMA rules requiring the exact double-crop practice in two out of the last four years be eliminated. (2014)
- A-29. ASA supports a stand-alone double-crop insurance policy in counties where the practice of double-cropping is recognized as an acceptable practice under RMA rules. (2016)
- A-30. ASA urges USDA-RMA to collect data on double crop soybeans in all counties and regions and use that data to adjust the geographic line northward for producers to be eligible to insure double cropped soybeans. (2021)
- A-31. ASA supports alternative private revenue protection products or insurance be made available for soybean farmers to use as risk management tools in addition to the current federal crop insurance program.
- A-32. ASA urges Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to reinstate Area Risk Protection Insurance (ARPI) policies in counties where no longer available. (2018)
- A-33. ASA recognizes that the interaction between a farmer and their crop insurance agent and the amount of service provided by the agent to the farmer exceeds that of other types of insurance. ASA urges the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to consider this when considering the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA).

- A-34. ASA requests the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to recognize the increased value of specialty soybeans when calculating plug yields when producers switch from commodity soybeans to specialty soybeans.
- A-35. ASA supports private insurance carriers delivering crop insurance programs and opposes having FSA selling and servicing federal crop insurance. ASA opposes any further cuts to the administrative and operating (A&O) expense reimbursement and underwriting to approved insurance providers. (2020)
- A-36. As soybean farmers adopt new traits that are covered under federal crop insurance, ASA urges that:
- a. Crop insurance agents be trained to explain all allowable options available to clients regarding insuring specialty and commodity soybeans.
  - b. RMA strive to verify yield correlation between existing APH transfer to specialty soybeans where appropriate.
- A-37. ASA supports representation of producers actively engaged in soybean production on the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's Board of Directors. (2021)
- A-38. ASA recognizes that cover crops offer economic benefits including improved soil quality. ASA supports practical Risk Management Agency (RMA) policies regarding cover crops that require producers to continue best management practices. (2020)
- A-39. ASA supports the trend adjusted APH endorsement for crop insurance. (2021)
- A-40. ASA supports a producer's ability to reopen a crop insurance claim if the discrepancy of delivered bushels exceeds 3% or \$5,000 whichever is less. The final settlement must be completed no later than 270 days after the date of signing the claim. (2015)
- A-41. ASA opposes reducing the current government subsidy levels of federal crop insurance premiums and opposes means testing for crop insurance. (2020)
- A-42. ASA supports continuous evaluation of crop insurance policies including reviewing and updating beginning and ending planting dates, premium levels and adjustment guidelines, to address developing management practices and technologies. ASA supports pilot programs that gather necessary data to determine those sustainable conservation practices that reduce risk and could lower farmers' crop insurance premiums. (2019)

- A-43. ASA supports survey research that utilizes post-harvest scientific sampling strategies within National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) identified Palmer Drought Index areas to supplement USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported yields to compute more realistic and yet statistically defensible yields for RMA crop insurance programs. (2019)
- A-44. ASA supports the continuation of harvest price option in revenue protection policies while preserving current levels of underwriting premium support. (2018)
- A-45. ASA supports that RMA pay quality loss based on the first purchaser's discount schedule at time of delivery. (2019)
- A-46. ASA supports changes to crop insurance policies and/or procedures that will make quality loss adjustments more closely aligned with revenue losses in the marketplace when quality damage occurs in soybeans. (2019)

## **PRODUCTION**

### **Crop Protection**

- A-47. ASA supports and encourages reasonable efforts to improve crop protection product safety, handling, and education. ASA supports farm and commodity organizations taking leadership on those environmental and food safety issues that affect producers. ASA supports the efforts of farm organizations to obtain objective scientific research that quantifies the economic impacts of agricultural input restrictions. ASA encourages the inclusion of agricultural organizations by government, consumer, and environmental groups in designing practical solutions to environmental issues. (2017)
- A-48. ASA supports the use of safe, environmentally friendly containers for agricultural inputs. ASA supports policies that require Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) in generation of data for crop protection products. ASA supports agricultural leaders and environmental advocates working together in developing environmental policies and common goals, creating an atmosphere of cooperation.
- A-49. ASA supports EPA using scientifically valid data and research in making decisions governing crop production inputs, and that EPA and other regulatory bodies must consider economic impact statements and risk-benefit analysis before proposing any restriction on inputs or new technology.

- A-50. ASA supports expedited approval process for new, environmentally-friendly crop protection products. (2018)
- A-51. ASA supports EPA using its authority to grant producers emergency use permits when emergency situations occur. (2021)
- A-52. ASA supports voluntary record keeping for general use crop protection product application and believes that such a practice provides evidence of responsible land and water use.
- A-53. ASA encourages state soybean associations to take an active role in states' development of environmental policy. Local governing bodies should be prohibited from imposing requirements more stringent than federal requirements on the sale or use of federally registered crop protection products or biotech products.
- A-54. ASA endorses the use of voluntary integrated pest management programs and best management practices consistent with sound ecological and economical principles.
- A-55. ASA opposes farmers being liable for environmental damages resulting from input use where recommended label rates and application procedures are followed.
- A-56. ASA supports all imported food products meeting EPA-established pesticide residue tolerances (maximum residue levels). (2021)
- A-57. ASA supports implementation of Worker Protection Standards (WPS) in a way that protects agricultural workers and bystanders while not undermining the ability of growers to use pesticides according to the label or placing growers at increased liability for doing so. (2021)
- A-58. ASA opposes the arbitrary or unnecessary discontinuation of pesticide products, uses, or tolerances to maximize the tools available to growers for best management practices. (2021)
- A-60. ASA opposes EPA establishing nationwide testing for certification or re-certification of private pesticide applicators, and supports allowing individual states to determine testing procedures, necessary training, and re-certification length. Online and non-classroom programs should be considered. (2020)

- A-61. ASA recognizes that crop protection products are a significant part of the soybean farmer's input costs. ASA supports that all Canadian crop protection products that have an equivalent U.S. EPA registered product be given automatic reciprocal EPA registration. (2018)
- A-62. ASA opposes any additional permitting process for crop protection product applications and urges EPA to craft any new regulations in a way that is not onerous to farmers. ASA opposes EPA requirements for NPDES Permits for pesticide applications in crop production.
- A-63. ASA supports Endangered Species Act evaluations and consultations for pesticide registration actions that are based in sound science and use realistic assumptions and real-world data. (2021)
- A-64. ASA supports the use of crop protection products based on current EPA regulations, provided application follows the label and manufacturers support further testing of the product. ASA encourages additional educational efforts to increase the knowledge applicators and producers have regarding new chemical technologies and their interaction on other crops. (2018)
- A-65. ASA encourages makers of any new crop protection formulations to increase their investments in and recognition of national and state associations, academic institutions, and state departments of agriculture for their efforts to ensure new innovative technologies are available for growers to combat weed resistance issues. (2018)

### **Energy**

- A-66. ASA supports preferential energy allocation for agricultural production and marketing during times of critical energy shortages.
- A-67. ASA opposes the sale, transfer or other disposal of the federal power marketing administrations, as well as any regulatory or legislative measures that would increase the costs of electricity or impose other artificial cost burdens onto the rates U.S. farmers must now pay for electrical energy.
- A-68. ASA is opposed to the concept of an energy tax and/or carbon tax. (2021)

- A-69. ASA supports domestic production of petroleum and natural gas to stabilize future increases in farm input supply prices. (2021)
- A-70. ASA supports a comprehensive energy policy which utilizes all current sources and continues to develop and implement all new sources of domestically produced energy. (2015)
- A-71. ASA supports the routing and construction of current & future pipelines and other infrastructure to fully utilize North American energy resources. (2021)
- A-72. ASA supports inclusion of an Energy Title in the Farm Bill that includes specific authorization and funding for the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels, the Bio-based Market Program and the Biodiesel Education Program to support and promote the development and use of bio-based products. (2018)
- A-73. ASA calls on Congress to allocate funding for and require electrical providers to properly harden the U.S. electrical grid. (2018)
- A-74. ASA calls on Congress to allocate funding for and encourage electrical providers to expand 3-phase power grid into rural areas. (2019)

## **DOMESTIC MARKETS**

### **General**

- A-75. ASA supports developing, maintaining, expanding, and promoting markets for identity preserved and specialty soybeans or soybean products. ASA supports premium structures that reflect the additional costs of identity preservation.
- A-76. ASA supports the promotion and use of registered soybean product logos to establish consumer awareness. (2021)

### **Livestock and Aquaculture**

- A-77. ASA supports the expanded use of soybean products by ~~of~~ the livestock, poultry, dairy and aquaculture industries. ASA will work with these industries to promote the importance of these foods in a balanced diet. (2021)

- A-78. ASA will publicly support responsible livestock producers who face unwarranted challenges by individuals or organizations through local, state and federal zoning, permitting, regulatory or legislative processes. (2016)
- A-79. ASA requests that cost share dollars that are available to livestock producers for upgrading livestock facilities be made available to all livestock producers who upgrade, replace, or expand their operation to make it an environmentally viable entity.
- A-80. ASA supports the use of science-based environmental review process to evaluate livestock facilities siting. ASA also supports that objecting petitioners reside within reasonable proximity of the questioned site. (2021)
- A-81. ASA supports animal disease traceability programs to protect against the loss of soybean demand due to the outbreak of diseases of livestock, poultry, dairy and aquaculture. (2020)
- A-82. ASA supports the efforts of the U.S. livestock, poultry, dairy and aquaculture industries to vigorously oppose any initiatives that would limit the use of modern and accepted production practices. (2020)
- A-83. ASA supports expansion of the domestic aquaculture industry, including offshore aquaculture, to increase food security, create jobs, and reduce the negative trade balance in aquaculture. ASA also encourages federal funding for research that would optimize the use of soybean protein and oil in aquaculture feed.
- A-84. ASA supports clear, consistent and reasonable science-based regulations and processes needed for the livestock industry to remain profitable. ASA further recognizes the following as science-based programs:
- a. Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA+)
  - b. United Egg Producers Certified (UEP)
  - c. Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)
  - d. Humane Slaughter Act as regulated by the USDA and meat packing industry
  - e. Transport Quality Assurance (TQA)
  - f. Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) (2020)
- A-85. ASA supports offshore marine aquaculture legislation that creates a means to achieve security of tenure for farms. (2019)

- A-86. ASA will work with our partners to educate consumers that modern animal agriculture production is science-based and provides safeguards for humane treatment of animals.
- A-87. ASA opposes legislative efforts and ballot initiatives that restrict established animal production systems that adequately provide for animal welfare, worker safety and environmental and economic sustainability.
- A-88. ASA opposes any state's attempt to regulate interstate commerce of crop and livestock products by adopting more stringent regulations than federal requirements for crop and livestock production and products and applying those standards to all products sold in that state.
- A-89. ASA supports full funding for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank, the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program, and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). (2021)
- A-90. ASA supports agriculture exemptions for emissions reporting requirements under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). (2018)
- A-91. ASA affirms that US food regulatory agencies should prevent the labeling of plant or cell-based food products as meat. (2021)
- A-92. ASA supports the authority of APHIS to conduct risk assessments for foreign animal diseases that could enter the U.S. ASA also supports APHIS's authority to quarantine imported animals, animal products, feed ingredients, oilseeds, pet foods and pet products that pose risks of disease transmission. (2021)
- A-93. ASA supports full collaboration with states, industry, USDA agencies and producers to address bio security protocols and best practices, in response to African swine fever and other diseases. (2020)
- A-94. ASA opposes any legislative efforts that would limit or ban the size of large-animal unit feeding operations. (2021)
- A-95. ASA supports efforts to increase the number and capacity of local and regional livestock processing facilities in the U.S. ASA also supports efforts to assist those

facilities to become federally inspected facilities so product can be sold across state lines. (2021)

A-96. ASA supports research efforts around vaccine development for African Swine Fever (ASF). (2021)

### **Bio-Based Products**

A-97. ASA supports incentives for the use of bio-based products. ASA supports expanding USDA's bio-preferred product list and an equitable tax credit for bio-based products. ASA encourages the USDA to actively provide the bio-based product label in order to increase acceptance and use of soy-based products by consumers and industry.

A-98. ASA supports a soy or bio-based buying preference for federal, state and local government entities.

A-99. ASA supports new and increased funding for soy or bio-based product research and development, government-sponsored collaborations with academia & the private sector, and encourages expanded marketing and consumer education on bio-based product labeling and bio-based products. (2021)

### **Soy Foods**

A-100. ASA supports exempting refined vegetable oil from any domestic or international labeling requirement based on allergenicity or hypersensitivity.

A-101. ASA supports front of package labeling on processed foods indicating the level of saturated fat content on a per serving basis.

A-102. ASA opposes local, state and federal laws, tariffs, and regulations that discriminate against the use of soy oil or protein in foods.

A-103. ASA supports the increased use of soy protein in foods and beverages, including foods used in federal nutrition programs, and opposes the protein restrictions for school lunches.

A-104. ASA supports the reimbursable option for fortified soy beverage in the federal school lunch and breakfast programs without the requirement of a doctor's note.

A-105. ASA affirms that qualitative definitions of food such as wholesome or nutritious should be based on the food's actual composition without regard to geographical origin, growing practices, or type of crop (e.g. local foods, biotech traits, corn sugar, organic, etc.).

A-106. ASA supports commercialization of high oleic soybeans to provide U.S. soybean farmers and the soybean industry the opportunity to regain a significant portion of the four billion pounds of edible soybean oil use lost as a result of trans-fat labeling, and to offer expanded use of soybean oil in industrial applications. (2018)

### **BIOMASS-BASED DIESEL**

A-107. ASA supports U.S. production of biodiesel and renewable hydrocarbon diesel fuel using domestic feed stocks. (2019)

A-108. ASA supports policies that encourage all diesel fuel and diesel-powered vehicles to use biodiesel, a biodiesel blend and renewable hydrocarbon diesel. (2019)

A-109. ASA supports the development of state and federal legislation that promotes biodiesel and biodiesel blends through:

- a. Tax incentives that maintain a blenders credit.
- b. Minimum renewable fuel content requirements that include biodiesel blends and renewable hydrocarbon diesel
- c. Programs that promote biodiesel blends of 11% minimum while striving for 20% or higher
- d. Energy security measures that reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil sources
- e. Use of biodiesel as a fuel additive to improve the lubricity of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for on and off-road applications, including railroads
- f. Federal and state grants or programs for establishing biodiesel infrastructure
- g. Incentivizing and support for biodiesel inclusion in meeting the International Maritime Organization 2020 global particulate reduction mandate. (2019)

A-110. ASA supports long-term extension of the biodiesel blender's tax credit. (2019)

A-111. ASA recognizes and supports the role agriculture can and should play in the U.S. food and fuel security. ASA believes the biofuels industry utilizes co-products from agricultural production to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil as well as lower carbon emission, enabling the U.S. to become more energy independent.

- A-112. ASA supports biodiesel and renewable hydrocarbon diesel as domestically produced commercially available biomass-based diesel fuels that meets EPA's definition of an advanced biofuel to meet RFS2 obligation. (2019)
- A-113. ASA supports the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2) that reflects the expansion of the renewable fuels industry for biodiesel, renewable hydrocarbon diesel and ethanol, and opposes any changes that would reduce obligations or otherwise negatively impact the biodiesel or renewable hydrocarbon diesel industry. ASA urges EPA to release renewable volume obligation (RVO) volumes in a timely manner as established by Congress and in doing so restrict the damage that delaying the volume levels announcement past the established deadline can cause the biomass-based diesel industry. (2019)
- A-114. ASA affirms EPA should place a higher priority on policies that promote and support domestic biodiesel and renewable hydrocarbon diesel production, including the establishment of annual volume requirements that accommodate increasing volumes of domestic biodiesel and renewable hydrocarbon diesel production. One of the primary intents and purposes of the Renewable Fuel Standard is to promote U.S. energy independence and reduce dependence on foreign imports. (2019)
- A-115. ASA supports stringent enforcement by EPA of RFS feedstock eligibility requirements for imported biodiesel. (2016)
- A-116. ASA supports policy that requires the economic impacts on production agriculture, including both crops and livestock, to be analyzed prior to any consideration by the EPA of a Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS2) waiver request. ASA opposes any waiver request with negative economic impact to agriculture. (2019)
- A-117. ASA encourages state soybean associations and all biodiesel and renewable hydrocarbon diesel stakeholders to enhance these fuels as a renewable energy source through communications and marketing efforts. (2019)
- A-118. ASA urges state associations to work with state officials to:
- a. Define biodiesel as a fuel comprised of mono-alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats, designated B100, and meeting the requirements of ASTM D6751.

- b. Adopt the most current version of ASTM D6751 as the specification for biodiesel used as a blend stock with diesel fuels, as well as future biodiesel or biodiesel blend specifications approved by ASTM.
- c. Encourage state officials to actively enforce the adopted biodiesel related fuel specification standard.
- d. Encourage the adoption and enforcement of BQ9000 for feedstock production facilities and marketers of biodiesel.

A-119. ASA supports and endorses the inclusion of soybeans and soybean-based product applications and blends of such products in the development and implementation of any potential alternative and/or renewable fuel policy programs. ASA only supports the ASTM designation of D6751 as the quality standard for biodiesel.

A-120. ASA encourages petroleum distributors to provide biodiesel blends at all stations across the country to enhance our nation's energy security, improve our air quality and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

A-121. ASA recommends continued national education and research in the use of soy oil and other alternative sources of energy from renewable agricultural products. (2019)

A-122. ASA supports labeling at the fuel pump when biodiesel is at or above 6%, as defined by American Standard for Testing Materials (ASTM) and the National Council on Weights and Measures (NCWM).

A-123. ASA supports nationwide fuel quality testing at the appropriate governmental level to ensure the highest quality in all fuels. (2014)

A-124. ASA supports the development of technologies to produce additional renewable energy products (including but not limited to cellulosic ethanol, soy meal derived ethanol or bio-butanol, and hydrogen from soybean sources).

A-125. ASA encourages the development and usage of technologies addressing cold flow properties in the production of soy biodiesel. ASA supports any new retail devices including but not limited to blender pumps to distribute various blends of biodiesel at the level desired by the customer.

- A-126. ASA supports the work that the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) has done to support practices and promote the use of sustainable feed stocks and biodiesel production methods.
- A-127. ASA supports the use of biodiesel for electrical generation, industrial and home heating purposes, and supports promotion of U.S. soy biodiesel (bio-heat) in home heating oil markets. (2019)
- A-128. ASA opposes importation of unfairly subsidized foreign biodiesel and renewable hydrocarbon diesel that is sold at levels below domestic production costs. (2019)
- A-129. ASA supports educating legislators and the public about food and fuel as it relates to biodiesel production. (2017)
- A-130. ASA supports continued authorization and increased funding for the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels in the Farm Bill Energy Title to support and promote expanded production of domestic biodiesel. (2017)
- A-131. ASA supports the use of domestically produced biodiesel and renewable hydrocarbon diesel in national, state and regional programs to lower the carbon intensity of transportation fuels. (2019)
- A-132. ASA opposes tax incentives, subsidies, and RFS eligibility for co-processed renewable diesel. (2019)
- A-133. ASA supports defining co-processed renewable diesel as a product that is produced at an existing petroleum facility through a process that uses a mixture of petroleum and renewable feedstocks. (2021)
- A-134. ASA supports defining renewable hydrocarbon diesel as a product produced at a stand-alone facility that processes 100% renewable feedstock into 100% renewable diesel. (2021)
- A-135. ASA seeks recognition by the U.S. EPA that soybean oil is the preferred feedstock for sustainably produced renewable hydrocarbon diesel and biomass based diesel. (IL, 2021)

## TRANSPORTATION

### General

- A-136. ASA urges the Department of Transportation (DOT), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), other agencies, and private industry to ensure an infrastructure allowing U.S. soybeans to be delivered to domestic and international markets in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- A-137. ASA supports directing federal infrastructure funding toward improving commercial transportation, including locks and dams, navigation projects, and rural roads and bridges. (2021)
- A-138. ASA supports efforts by the Soy Transportation Coalition to address issues affecting the marketing and transport of oilseeds, grains, and their products.
- A-139. ASA supports an infrastructure funding framework that allows for public and private investment in the U.S. commercial transportation system to ensure U.S. soybeans and soybean products will be delivered to domestic and international markets in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- A-140. ASA opposes any new labeling of soy oil that would restrict its current transportation status.
- A-141. ASA supports the transportation of petroleum through pipelines in order to alleviate transportation congestion that limits soybeans ability to be delivered to all markets. (2015)
- A-142. ASA supports the extended hours of service and the exemption of the electronic logging device (ELD) when carrying livestock and other agricultural commodities and products beyond the 150 air-mile agricultural zone. (2021)
- A-143. ASA opposes all regulation which requires the phase-out of engines with older model years. ASA strongly encourages increased incentives and standards for the use of renewable fuels to lower emissions and particulate matter. (2021)

A-144. ASA supports the continued exemption of agricultural-related hauling from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program. (2021)

A-145. ASA supports federal infrastructure legislation including a minimum of 25 percent funding carve-out for rural areas. (2021)

### **Waterways Infrastructure**

A-146. ASA supports maintenance and improvements of the U.S. waterway and navigation systems. (2019)

A-147. ASA affirms that monies deposited into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund should be used for new construction and major rehabilitation of navigation infrastructure. (2019)

A-148. ASA supports additional and alternative financing measures to supplement the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) to provide sufficient funds for new construction for major rehabilitation and maintenance needs. ASA supports additional and alternative financing measures to provide a steadier and more reliable funding stream that is needed to reduce U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project costs and timeframe for completion, excluding privatization. (2019)

A-149. ASA supports the maintenance and improvement of river locks and dams which maintain water-shipping levels in a manner that sustains barge traffic and does not inhibit agricultural production. We believe available funding should first be directed toward maintaining and preserving the existing system. We support the necessary funding to modify and expand structures and facilities that increase transportation efficiency. (2018)

A-150. ASA urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Congress to take actions necessary to ensure that sufficient funding is provided for dredging all ports and waterways including the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway, to maintain the maximum authorized navigable depth to ensure the free movement of soybeans and soybean product domestically and internationally. (2014)

A-151. ASA supports legislation to require that all funds collected for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) are used for the intended purposes of waterways dredging and port maintenance.

- A-152. ASA urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to recognize flood control and navigation as their top priority. ASA also urges that their funding reflects and supports these priorities.
- A-153. ASA urges the US Department of Transportation (USDOT), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other responsible agencies to expedite the process of rebuilding and reconstructing flood control structures. ASA opposes proposed Master Water Control Manuals that would cause seasonal flooding or restricted barge traffic on the nation's waterways. ASA opposes any diversion of river flows that would adversely impact barge transportation.
- a. ASA supports keeping all river navigation systems important to agriculture open for use.
  - b. ASA supports maintaining full funding for all river navigation systems.
  - c. ASA opposes actions by FEMA to expand a flood plain designation. (2021)
- A-154. ASA urges Congress and the Administration to adopt legislation and policies to minimize strikes, work slowdowns and lockouts that interrupt the flow of soybeans and other farm commodities to our customers. (2016)
- A-155. ASA supports the further development of West Coast Shipping of Midwest soybeans and soy products. (2014)
- A-156. ASA supports an exemption for bulk agricultural commodities from the Jones Act. (2021)
- A-157. ASA supports the aggressive pursuit of container shipping of soybeans and soybean products.
- A-158. ASA supports the creation of inland container handling ports facilitating the growth of containerized soybean shipments along the inland waterway. (2019)
- A-159. ASA supports expanded dredging of Lower Mississippi River Ship Channel to maintain an operating river channel depth of 50 feet. (2021)
- A-160. ASA supports the dredging of the Port of Catoosa and the Arkansas River to attain a depth of 12 feet to support loading of barges to capacity. (2020)
- A-161. ASA supports enhanced navigation along the Missouri River. (2021)
- A-162. ASA supports and encourages full delivery of the projects contained in the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) and any additional efforts to improve navigation on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. (2021)

## **Railroads**

- A-163. ASA supports legislative efforts to promote increased competition in the rail industry to foster better service and lower rates.
- A-164. ASA supports the development of increased railroad capacity to export facilities to help maintain the U.S. reputation for timely delivery of soybeans. (2018)
- A-165. ASA supports strong state and federal assistance in maintaining low volume rail facilities in rural areas of the country.
- A-166. ASA encourages alternative access for farmers in the event of railroad grade closings during and following railroad development.
- A-167. ASA encourages the U.S. railroad industry to include biodiesel blends and renewable hydrocarbon diesel in their fuel use at the optimal levels appropriate to support an energy balance that achieves mitigation of impacts to the environments through emissions mitigation, efficiency of the locomotive operation including considerations of maintenance and repair, and enhance relationships with agricultural customers and stakeholders. (2019)
- A-168. ASA supports expansion of container handling facilities along the U.S. rail network. (2019)
- A-169. ASA encourages all Class I railroads hauling agriculture products to create agriculture advisory boards. (2021)
- A-170. ASA urges the Surface Transportation Board to review precision-scheduled railroading practices by Class I railroads to prevent the railroads from demarketing agricultural customers. (2021)
- A-171. ASA encourages the Surface Transportation Board to pursue reforms that will increase access to competitive rail service and market-based rates. (2021)

## **Highways and Roads**

- A-172. ASA recognizes the need to increase revenue to fund the Federal Highway Trust Fund and encourages a legislative solution that levies equitable federal taxes on all motor vehicles, regardless of energy source. (2021)

- A-173. ASA urges state and federal Departments of Transportation to update roads and bridges to accommodate all modern implements of husbandry, trucks and trailers per federal DOT definition.
- A-174. ASA supports expanding the truck weight limits on federal highways to a minimum of 91,000 pounds, provided that there is a 6<sup>th</sup> axle with proper vehicle configurations. (2015)
- A-175. ASA opposes states or local municipalities enacting lower weight limits on primary roads going through their jurisdiction without providing alternative routes. Alternative routes should be comparable in distance and time traveled. (2021)
- A-176. ASA encourages federal and state government entities to review ways to improve our state and federal highway system and to explore ways to finance it by working with the freight industry. (2016)
- A-177. ASA supports researching alternate methods of funding the Federal Highway Trust Fund that do not disproportionately affect agriculture more than other industries. (2018)
- A-178. ASA supports an exemption of blended portion of biofuels in highway motor fuel taxes. (2018)
- A-179. ASA supports the Soy Transportation Coalition project that promotes the use of load testing technology when evaluating the load-carrying capacity and structural integrity of bridges. (2021)
- A-180. ASA supports the efforts of the Soy Transportation Coalition and others in promoting innovative methods for replacing and repairing rural bridges that: 1.) Will provide cost savings; 2.) Have been affirmed by credible engineers; and 3.) Are widely accessible throughout rural America. ASA supports dissemination of this information to state, county, and local officials to promote better management of rural infrastructure. (2021)
- A-181. ASA urges the use of soy-based products to be used by the U.S. Department of Transportation on all federally funded infrastructure projects where applicable. (2019)

## COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

- A-182. ASA affirms that broadband access to the Internet is important to the quality of life in rural America and to strong and competitive farming operations. ASA encourages private businesses and cooperatives to collaborate with state and local governments to seek grants through the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), U.S. Department of Commerce, Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and applicable COVID-19 relief legislation or other available sources to bring quality high-speed broadband to rural areas at affordable rates. (2021)
- A-183. ASA supports a dependable and free public Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) differential real time kinematic correction signal available across all of the U.S.'s agricultural production land. (2017)
- A-184. ASA opposes the use of adjacent bandwidth by any company that would compromise the effectiveness of GPS technology for farmers.
- A-185. ASA encourages the continued development expansion and improvement of cellular networks to adequately address the needs of rural regions of the United States. (2017)
- A-186. ASA affirms that USDA's agricultural reports be classified as an "essential government service" to ensure their scheduled release in the event of government service disruptions. (2017)
- A-187. ASA requests that USDA provide oversight and take all appropriate measures to ensure the security of all agency reports, no matter the transmission mode, before their uniform release. (2017)
- A-188. ASA opposes unauthorized access to or use of farm-level data. (2021)
- A-189. ASA supports legislative statutes that establish a single confidentiality classification of all USDA collected producer data and the reorganization within USDA that delegates that data collection function to a single unit within the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).
- A-190. ASA supports the agricultural producer's right to repair equipment and machinery. (2021)

A-191. ASA supports federal oversight of private entities receiving federal broadband contracts in rural areas to ensure adequate and efficient broadband service is deployed in rural and underserved areas. (2021)

A-192. ASA supports federal efforts to: a) ensure farmers have accurate and reliable access to the enabling technologies they need to benefit from precision agriculture technology; and, b) expand voluntary adoption of precision technology by growers to improve environmental stewardship and provide economic returns. (2021)

A-193. ASA affirms that agriculture and rural stakeholders should be represented in any federal decision-making affecting drone usage policies and best practices. (2021)

## **TITLE B – RESEARCH, CONSERVATION AND FARMER-FOCUSED POLICIES**

### **PREAMBLE**

The American Soybean Association (ASA) is a leading advocate for the research of agronomics, crop husbandry, animal and aquaculture nutrition, food and industrial uses, conservation priorities, and standards needed to support and maintain a viable, profitable, resilient, and sustainable soybean industry. ASA supports the various sources of funding needed to meet and expand these goals. (2021)

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

#### **General**

B-1. ASA supports research that increases competitiveness of U.S. soybean farmers, expands consumer use of soybean products, improves efficiency and profitability of soybean producers, and positions U.S. soybeans and soy products as the preferred source. (2021)

B-2. ASA supports more research on soybean composition that focuses on the enhancement of industrial applications (including bio-based energy), health and nutrition benefits, animal nutrition, and production for both domestic and foreign customers.

B-3. ASA supports research & development of conventional soybean varieties that are important to agriculture to provide the biodiversity and the widest availability of varieties and traits. ASA encourages private and public soybean breeders to continue the development of conventional soybean varieties and to make them available to

soybean producers. Conventional plant breeding and germplasm accessibility must be maintained.

- B-4. ASA supports the National Council on Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR) and state councils' efforts intended to promote research funding for food and agriculture initiatives. (2017)
- B-5. ASA encourages soybean producers to select seed genetics based on high quality, high yielding protein, and oil content. ASA also encourages soybean seed companies to include estimated amino acid, protein, oil, and energy values content on a 13% moisture basis in their sales literature. Seed variety name/number should be available to the producer at the time of purchase. ASA encourages seeking ways to enhance the nutritional bundle and oil levels. (2021)
- B-6. ASA supports a requirement that all research data cited or used as the basis for rules and regulations are available and completely open for independent review. (2015)
- B-7. ASA supports new technologies for trait development that enhance individual soybean plant characteristics using the soybean genome. (2017)
- B-8. ASA supports researchers' responsible access to producer production data to help uncover and document practices that further improve the soybean industry's sustainability, profitability, resiliency, and messaging, while maintaining the confidentiality and non-public disclosure of individual producer data. (2021)
- B-9. ASA supports USDA funding of research on sulfur and micronutrients as they relate to increasing soybean yield, maximizing amino acid balance, and increasing oil & protein. (2021)

### **Research Funding**

- B-10. ASA supports increasing federal investment in USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) programs that will benefit soybean producers. (2017)

- B-11. ASA supports increased funding for USDA-ARS's National Plant Germplasm System, including full disclosure of all information concerning germination, vigor, and quality. (2021)
- B-12. ASA supports full funding of the USDA-ARS for the exploration and applied use of the USDA NPGS Global Soybean Collection to develop new and diverse conventional varieties as parental stock to broaden the genetic base of public and private soybean breeding. (2021)
- B-13. ASA requests that soybean research conducted at public institutions and funded completely or in part with soybean checkoff investments be considered as public property and made available for the benefit of U.S. soybean farmers. (2017)
- B-14. ASA encourages public soybean breeders to release new varieties on a non-exclusive basis.
- B-15. ASA supports research into new resistant varieties, biologicals and genomes, producer education, and testing recommendations for Soybean Cyst Nematode. Soybean varieties should be tested for cyst nematode reproduction. Seed tags and marketing and information profiles should reflect if it is a cyst resistant variety, source of resistance, and the variety number. (2017)
- B-16. ASA supports working with the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) or individual seed companies to develop guidelines which will allow farmers to continue to plant and propagate soybean varieties that a seed company has patented and no longer offers for sale.
- B-17. ASA supports QUALISOY to continue to improve commodity soybeans through compositional work. ASA will coordinate and manage all legislative activities with regard to QUALISOY. (2017)
- B-18. ASA supports a coordinated effort of state and national soybean organizations to set priorities for all federally funded soybean research projects. Among the factors to be considered in setting priorities are acreage, disease, and compositional traits. (2017)
- B-19. ASA supports federal funding of research that would optimize the use of soy in aquaculture feed and support aquaculture species development to better utilize soybean protein. (2021)

- B-20. ASA opposes any USDA efforts to impose administrative charges on cooperative research agreements, including farmer checkoff funded research projects.
- B-21. ASA supports adequate funding through USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to protect the U.S. soybean industry from both bioterrorism and naturally occurring pests and pathogens. (2017)
- B-22. ASA supports the development and transition to high oleic soybeans.
- B-23. ASA requests that APHIS takes all appropriate precautions to protect domestic soybean production against the additional spread of soybean rust. Importation of whole soybeans, soybean meal, and soybean seed from countries with soybean rust infestation must be subject to science-based regulations. (2017)
- B-24. ASA supports Homeland Security Presidential Directive, HSPD-9, a national policy established to protect U.S. agriculture and food systems against terrorist attacks and major disasters including the spread of diseases and pathogens. (2020)
- B-25. ASA requests that Congress and USDA permanently fund the Integrated Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (iPIPE). (2020)
- B-26. ASA supports additional USDA and other federal agency funding for projects dedicated to developing new soybean varieties resistant to drought and flood damage. ASA supports conventional field testing and genomic analysis. Existing soybean varieties should be tested for resistance to drought and flooding. (2021)
- B-27. ASA supports expanded funding for research to ensure sustainable use of crop protection technology to manage resistance issues and to promote sound environmental stewardship. (2021)
- B-28. ASA supports increasing funding to levels that allow USDA to collect data to achieve the most accurate, all-inclusive information and transparency to producers and researchers at land grant universities. (2020)

### **Intellectual Property Rights**

- B-29. ASA supports research and development to create added-value traits intended to improve soybean sustainability and growers' profitability. (2019)

- B-30. ASA supports the Plant Variety Protection Act. (2017)
- B-31. ASA supports continued work with the U.S. government, seed industry, and national and international organizations to ensure consistent global application of soybean technologies' intellectual property rights, essential to the growth and development of the soybean industry. (2017)
- B-32. ASA discourages producer contracts concerning patented genetic material that may transgress on private property rights without reasonable belief of patent infringement.
- B-33. ASA supports keeping basic research information related to the soybean genome, transcriptome, proteome and metabolome in the public sector. (2021)
- B-34. ASA encourages genetic intellectual property rights to be issued and controlled in the public sector when they are developed by public or soybean checkoff funds.
- B-35. ASA encourages the seed production companies to continue offering "genetic technology" post patent.
- B-36. ASA supports patents derived through soybean checkoff funding which are subsequently sold to private industry, should be brought to market within three years, or returned cost-free to the original public entity. (2017)
- B-37. ASA supports resolution of issues with China regarding intellectual property rights. (2020)

## **DOMESTIC TECHNOLOGY**

### **General**

- B-38. ASA supports the adoption and use of biotechnology-derived products in farming operations. ASA supports biotechnology and believes the development of biotechnology-enhanced crop varieties and products will benefit farmers, consumers, and the environment. ASA supports the use of biotechnology as a key tool to help us meet growing world food, health and energy needs. ASA supports USDA, EPA and FDA operating a timely, efficient, predictable, and science-based regulatory system for approval of new biotech traits. (2018)

### **U.S. Regulatory Approvals**

- B-39. ASA supports seed trait developers engaging with appropriate or necessary U.S. regulatory agencies and acquiring any necessary regulatory approvals prior to entering biotechnology crop traits into commerce. (2021)
  
- B-40. ASA supports the development of plant breeding innovations, which include modification of plants that could be found in nature or obtained through conventional breeding, as valuable tools that are needed to adapt to changing conditions and environmental threats. (2019)
  
- B-41. ASA supports plant breeding innovations being regulated the same as similar varieties that are found in nature or developed through conventional breeding that do not require pre-market regulatory approval. ASA urges USDA, EPA, and FDA to coordinate closely in changes to the Coordinated Framework to affirm this policy domestically as well as work with export countries to harmonize that approach internationally. (2019)
  
- B-42. ASA supports moving regulatory oversight for gene edited and transgenic agricultural livestock from the FDA to the USDA. (2021)

### **Domestic Commercialization of New Biotech Traits**

- B-43. ASA supports proper traceability and stewardship protocols being in place prior to commercialization for biotechnology soybean varieties intended for specific, non-generic uses to, as required or appropriate, prevent their comingling with the bulk commodity soybean market. (2021)
  
- B-44. ASA encourages biotechnology and seed companies bringing new soybean biotech products to the market to implement a comprehensive “marketplace acceptance” strategy at least one, and preferably two-to-three years, before the products are commercialized. Such a strategy should include outreach and education to both domestic and foreign buyers, processors, feed millers, food companies, livestock feeders, retailers, consumer groups, and the media.
  
- B-45. ASA supports expansion of controlled identity preserved systems that meet ASA’s Identity Preserved guidelines for internationally unapproved biotech and specialty varieties while continuing to provide customers with the products they desire and support the development, production and promotion of biotech crops that are acceptable to domestic and foreign consumers.
  
- B-46. ASA opposes producers being held liable for damages resulting from biotechnology-enhanced product use, when recommended practices and procedures are followed.

- B-47. ASA supports, as is scientifically possible, seed trait developers creating tests that can be used to efficiently detect the presence of a new biotechnology traits before varieties containing that trait enter commerce. ASA supports the development of a review process that can result in these tests becoming standardized. (2021)
- B-48. ASA supports private sector efforts to resolve any issues surrounding the deregulation of special use biotech traits through consultations between the trait provider and interested industry sectors, including farmer associations, processors, and exporters.
- B-49. ASA supports production contracts that allow for producers' liability to end when the first purchaser accepts the product.
- B-50. ASA supports efficient, timely, risk and science-based regulatory policies for products of biotechnology that are based on characteristics of the product itself, and not the method used to produce it. Undue regulatory burden on products of plant breeding innovation, such as gene edited varieties, may discourage scientific innovation and limit technology adoption by private and public soybean breeders. (2021)

### **Biotech Product Labeling**

- B-51. ASA opposes a patchwork of state disclosure requirements for foods containing bioengineered ingredients and supports P.L. 114-216, the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard and its final 2018 implementing regulations, which establishes a national, uniform disclosure standard for foods containing bioengineered ingredients. (2021)
- B-52. ASA supports working closely with food manufacturers, technology companies, and others in the supply chain to develop strategies for the long-term on biotech labeling and implementation of the biotech labeling law and update to the Coordinated Framework. (2017)
- B-53. ASA supports the definition of "bioengineering" in Section 291 of P.L. 114-216 and believes that rules and regulations to implement the law should adhere to the statute. (2017)
- B-54. ASA supports legislation that would prohibit labeling a product as non-GMO when there is no GMO alternative available for use. (2018)

## **COMPETITION POLICY**

### **Anti-Trust**

- B-55. 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.
- B-56. ASA supports the following changes to antitrust statutes and regulations that will further protect the sellers of commodities from anti-competitive behavior:
- a. 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.
  - b. USDA should be more active in giving authority to review and provide recommendations to the DOJ on agribusiness mergers and acquisitions.
  - c. A high-level position should be maintained within the DOJ to enforce antitrust laws in agriculture.
  - d. USDA should be empowered to investigate mergers, consolidation or concentration of agricultural input suppliers and processors for antitrust or anti-competitive activities.
- B-57. ASA supports analyzing the potential impacts on soybean farmers of proposed agribusiness mergers. If our analysis identifies areas of concern, ASA will urge divestiture or other remedies for any segments of a proposed merger where competition would be significantly impacted, or disapproval of the merger. (2017)

### **Soybean Trading**

- B-58. ASA opposes a merger of the CFTC and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or the transfer of futures regulation to any agency other than CFTC.
- B-59. ASA opposes federal regulation of margin levels for futures contracts and on options contracts. ASA opposes transaction fees on commodity trading which will inhibit the trading of soybeans and soybean products.
- B-60. ASA recommends any futures or options transactions that offset a current or anticipated cash commodity position and reduce price or basis risk should be considered a hedging position and not speculating. Gain or loss from a hedging or option position should be considered by the IRS as ordinary gain or loss for either personal or corporate tax returns.

- B-61. ASA supports a change in tax law to treat call options that are tied to a cash sale the same as a put option with gains taxed as ordinary income and losses 100% deductible in the year they are incurred.
- B-62. ASA supports improvement of federal oversight of commodity hedge funds to ensure the integrity of the futures trading system.
- B-63. ASA recommends the CFTC release daily trading reports to provide transparency for producers. (2017)

## **CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **General**

- B-64. ASA encourages farmers to implement conservation plans to bring their highly erodible land into compliance. ASA endorses the implementation of voluntary best management and conservation practices that reduce soil erosion, sequester carbon, improve soil resiliency to extreme weather events, and improve water quality. Conservation plans should allow for adaptive management. Public funding should be available for land altering practices required by conservation plans. (2015) (Conservation & Precision Ag, 2021)
- B-65. Future requirements for conservation plans should be changed or exceptions allowed (minimum area and width) for erosion control, grass strips, wildlife food plots and other similar measures. ASA encourages requirements for conservation plans that promote flexibility for soil conservation and water quality practices.
- B-66. ASA supports Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other national conservation programs targeting the most fragile and environmentally sensitive lands. ASA supports efforts to ensure that water quality objectives remain a priority under CRP and are reflected in rental contracts. (2017)
- B-67. ASA requests that the Farm Service Agency enforce the 25% total tillable acres cap on CRP acres per county.
- B-68. ASA does not support the requirement to reseed established CRP grasses when CRP is reenrolled.

- B-69. ASA opposes subjecting all Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments to Self-Employment Contribution Act (SECA).
- B-70. ASA supports allowing small, irregularly shaped whole fields into the continuous enrollment CRP program.
- B-71. ASA encourages the USDA to maintain the current penalties incurred on CRP acres withdrawn early from the CRP program.
- B-72. ASA supports the increase in CRP acres in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018. (2019)
- B-73. ASA supports full funding of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for both commodity and livestock projects. States and counties should be allowed to choose and administer all soil conservation, water conservation, and water quality programs that best meet the needs at the local level. (2021)
- B-74. ASA supports the use of burning, light discing, and other means of mechanical destruction of vegetative growth on CRP acres for mid-term management and general maintenance. (2021)
- B-75. ASA supports increased funding for the NRCS to provide locally trained field staff and experienced technical assistance. ASA also supports using mandatory funding to pay for Technical Service Providers. ASA recommends that NRCS has clear freedom to operate without undue influence from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in performing their duties. (2021)
- B-76. ASA supports expanding the conservation and environmental planning work force by providing private sector conservation planners access to the same tools and resources the public sector uses, and by accelerating development and evaluation of new planning tools and technologies through private sector engagement efforts. ASA supports the use of private technical service providers at producer reimbursable expense. These determinations are to be treated equally by NRCS and reviewed in a timely and fair manner to expedite conservation practices. We believe that the spending for approved practices should be flexible and tied to acreage serviced by the practice. (2018)

- B-77. ASA supports farmers' flexibility in improving and maintaining drainage for production purposes. ASA opposes regulations that limit the most beneficial use of agricultural land.
- B-78. ASA recommends that all environmental mandates must have incentives for farmer compliance rather than penalties for non-compliance.
- B-79. ASA recommends that whole farm planning remain a voluntary process. Farm payment or cost share payment should not be dependent on the development of a whole farm plan. ASA does not support establishment of national standards.
- B-80. ASA supports significant stakeholder involvement in all components of impaired waters and TMDL processes.
- B-81. ASA supports requiring all public entities to maintain their drainage ditches at the proper designed depth.
- B-82. ASA supports local farmer representation at all levels whenever watershed policies and regulations are being formulated. (2020)
- B-83. ASA supports producer-led and managed application of Certified Environmental Management Systems for Agriculture (CEMSA) as a framework for producers to improve resource management and address impacts on the environment. ASA encourages federal and state governments, universities, and private interests to provide support for a pilot project that involves providing goods and services to producers in the application of CEMSA.
- B-84. ASA supports full funding and implementation of NRCS voluntary working lands conservation programs. Payments should reward producers for good stewardship and conservation practices, including but not limited to the longevity/permanence thereof. Compensation for conservation practices should not be limited by the size of the producer's operation. Consideration should be given to practical conservation farming practices based on soil type and climate conditions. (2021)
- B-85. ASA supports that information a producer provides to the USDA for participation in NRCS conservation programs should remain protected from public disclosure. Furthermore, farmers who submit information to the USDA in order to participate in NRCS conservation programs should be held harmless for that disclosure. (2021)

- B-86. ASA supports NRCS increasing outreach to non-operating landowners (NOLs) regarding the values, benefits, and importance of NRCS voluntary working lands conservation programs. (2021)
- B-87. ASA calls on the U.S. EPA to include land grant university researchers in its scientific review process of water quality and hypoxia related issues, especially white papers by the U.S. EPA. (2014)
- B-88. ASA requests that nonprofit organizations that dedicate land to wildlife habitat should be subject to property taxes. (2019)
- B-89. ASA supports policy that requires any information used by USDA, EPA or other agencies to form agriculture nutrient, pesticide and/or climate change regulations to meet the following requirements:
- a. The person providing the information to provide an express and identifiable reference to the sources used as the basis for the recommendation.
  - b. The sources used as the basis for the recommendation shall be public information and shall include the underlying data and methodology in a format sufficient to allow the general public to evaluate the statistical inferences and to duplicate the methodology used to create the source information.
- B-90. ASA supports landowners and tenants having exclusive rights to regulate access for hunting, fishing, or recreation on private land. (2014)
- B-91. ASA opposes disproportionate compensation from government conservation programs that potentially remove valuable agricultural land from production.
- B-92. ASA opposes the depletion of productive, irreplaceable, and essential natural resource of farmland for the sole purpose of establishing urban growth in areas prone to flooding. (2014)
- B-93. ASA supports voluntary agriculture conservation programs that are farmer led, flexible, and confidential at the individual farm level. These programs should be based on the premise that long term soil health, fertility, productivity, and resiliency are the primary conservation goals. These programs should be in place to supersede any mandatory certification programs brought forth by local, state, or federal agencies. (2021)

- B-94. ASA supports the NRCS definition of soil health, also referred to as soil quality, as the continued capacity of a soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. (2021)
- B-95. ASA supports a requirement that data generated by any water quality monitoring programs, including data used for development of standards and data to establish designated uses, be gathered and analyzed with protocols that meet the highest level of Quality Control and Quality Assurance.
- B-96. ASA supports the right to use commonly accepted agricultural practices on private farmland on or adjacent to national wildlife refuges. (2016)
- B-97. ASA supports significant stakeholder involvement in drainage and water management decisions on federal wildlife refuges when it impacts adjacent farmland. (2016)
- B-98. ASA supports Congress requiring the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to offer landowners of property burdened by USFWS waterfowl production area easements the opportunity to purchase releases of those easements. (2017)
- B-99. ASA supports Congress requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to include landowners in the mapping of easement boundaries including requiring both parties to sign off on boundary borders subject to acres purchased in the easement. (2020)
- B-100. ASA supports Congress requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to offer landowners of property impacted by the USFWS waterfowl production area easements the opportunity to mitigate those wetland acres under easement. (2020)
- B-101. ASA supports establishing and enforcing a seed inspection and certification policy to ensure that seed used for cost share habitat and cover crop programs is free from noxious weeds. (2017)
- B-102. ASA is opposed to global entities setting environmental standards, including those covering water quality and greenhouse gases, that are more stringent than U.S. federal or state regulations. (2021)
- B-103. ASA supports flexibility in the use of existing funding and the creation of new incentives under USDA programs for nutrient application research, farmer equipment, and

infrastructure upgrades, such as fertilizer and manure incorporation tools and nutrient management plans. (2018)

B-104. ASA supports that the Department of Interior be prohibited from entering into conservation easements of longer than fifty years. Landowners who have existing easements that have been in existence for longer than fifty years, or those who have no supporting wetland maps, should be able to renegotiate with the Department. (2021)

### **Water Quality and Usage**

B-105. ASA recommends that Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) be the agency responsible for coordinating groundwater and surface voluntary water programs. (2015)

B-106. ASA supports the use of scientific-based research in developing national water quality standards and educational programs to safeguard groundwater and surface water resources. State and local agricultural agencies should plan and assist in implementing programs and policies based on geographical and geological differences.

B-107. ASA supports agriculture's right to use ground water, surface water, and gravitational water for production purposes. ASA supports the definition of excess crop root zone water as "gravitational water." (2017)

B-108. ASA supports that all regulations, rules, laws, or policies that impact production agriculture should be based on the most current and up to date peer reviewed science. The background material should be made available to the public and open for public comment. Linkages and citations of data must be a guiding force in developing environmental programs and policies. (2020)

B-109. ASA recommends that research should be conducted that addresses the source, movement, and acceptable levels of crop protection products in surface and groundwater regardless of whether the source is agricultural or non-agricultural. Based upon scientific research, any environmental recommendations or regulations must take into consideration a cost-benefit analysis to the consumer, producer, and positive balance of U.S. trade.

B-110. ASA recommends the continuation of research and education programs that would enhance the environmentally sound and economically viable storage and use of agricultural by products and animal manure nutrients.

- B-111. ASA supports water quality standards that are ecologically and economically attainable. ASA supports just compensation to the producer when standards are imposed or required other than agronomically optimal management systems.
- B-112. ASA supports voluntary science-based programs and policies directed on a farm-by-farm basis toward ongoing in-field evaluation of nutrient management methods which allow producers to continually improve their nutrient management practices. ASA supports and believes in:
- a. central coordination of networks of in-field evaluation to improve nutrient management decisions.
  - b. infrastructure for conservation efforts in watersheds and sub-watersheds.
  - c. cooperative conservation efforts among public and private organizations and individuals that achieve a positive environmental impact and meet demands for production.
  - d. research findings and citations of data accessible to producers must be the foundation for developing and expanding nutrient management programs.
- B-113. ASA opposes a shift in liability that could occur with a point-nonpoint pollution credit trading program and supports a requirement that farmer stakeholders affected by the trading provisions have final control over the program.
- B-114. ASA supports the requirements that point-nonpoint source water quality pollution trading be automatically available to any new point source permit holders that have lower discharge concentrations than existing point sources.
- B-115. ASA opposes labeling of animal manure as a hazardous waste.
- B-116. ASA supports requiring that a “cause and effect” linkage to water quality be established through field or farm scale research, before federal or state watershed monitoring and demonstration programs are funded.
- B-117. ASA opposes the 2015 EPA Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule and any attempts by any agency to enact any portion of WOTUS rule. (2020)
- B-118. ASA opposes removing the word “navigable” from the Federal Clean Water Act or redefining it to include all U.S. waters which would then greatly expand the

jurisdictional authority of the federal government to the detriment of farmers and others.

- B-119. ASA supports the proper implementation of the agricultural exemption to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including the continuation of the normal farming practice exemption.
- B-120. ASA supports science-based water quality initiatives. ASA encourages the participating agencies to continue to fund research that monitors water quality including impairments, causes, sources, and to submit its research for science-based review. (2018)
- B-121. ASA supports action plans that are consistent with the scientific studies in the Science Advisory Board Reports, taking into account the strength of the sources and linkages between Nitrogen and Phosphorous discharges. (2018)
- B-122. ASA affirms that an Agricultural Ecosystem is a legitimate ecosystem and should be preserved and recognized in establishing water quality standards. TMDL discharge standards appropriate for other types of ecosystems should not be imposed on Agricultural Ecosystems.
- B-123. ASA supports a requirement for consideration of background loading in all TMDL studies, plans, and legislation.
- B-124. ASA requests that agriculture should not be held responsible for pollution caused by natural conditions when dealing with TMDL legislation, and that all natural loadings be separately identified and properly considered in the TMDL process, and that natural loadings consider climate and ecosystem dynamics.
- B-125. ASA supports the need for research that ensures that climatic effects on flow and sediment loads are properly factored into TMDL studies.
- B-126. ASA supports a policy requiring that BMPs (Best Management Practices) which are promoted or required in Conservation and Water Quality programs have input from agricultural professionals, including farm operators and managers. (2021)
- B-127. ASA opposes the establishment, by any unit of government, of additional water quality impairment, fertilizer, or nutrient taxes or fees. (2021)

- B-128. ASA supports a requirement that TMDL allocations be updated when new science indicates the existing allocations are incorrect.
- B-129. ASA recommends that the Clean Water Act be amended to exempt producers from litigation/liability and not require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit when producers can certify that the pesticides have been used in a manner that complies with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
- B-130. ASA supports subsurface drainage such as tiling as a means to increase sustainability and resiliency, improve soil health, sequester carbon, and to reduce soil erosion from surface water movement and saline levels in the soil. (2021)
- B-131. ASA opposes the inclusion of ditches and prior converted crop land on the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers list of impaired waterways.
- B-132. ASA supports the balance of volunteer and elected stakeholders, and the restrictions of Federal, State, and Local government agency employees as participants on advisory councils, boards, technical committees, and stakeholder committees that are components of the impaired waters TMDL process.
- B-133. ASA supports farmer implementation of environmental programs that incorporate adaptive and best management practices for nutrient stewardship and provide farmers long term economic benefits with the goal of continuous environmental improvement. (2015)
- B-134. ASA opposes the EPA utilizing citizen monitoring to collect samples and submit data for determining product regulation, registration, or environmental impact.
- B-135. ASA supports the use of county, state, and federal funds to perform routine maintenance on water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures, terraces and other sediment catch basins. (2014)
- B-136. ASA supports farmers' efforts to achieve continuous improvement in environmental performance by collaborating with industry, ag producers, and other units of government. (2015)

B-137. ASA supports a farmer’s ability to self-certify a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan if the farm has a total aboveground oil storage capacity of 10,000 U.S. gallons or less. (2019)

### **Air Quality**

B-138. ASA encourages EPA to work with producers to develop voluntary, incentive-based programs that would assist producers in meeting any current and future air quality standards. ASA supports air quality standards for agriculture which are ecologically and economically attainable, and that are supported by science-based research. ASA supports air quality standards for agriculture being addressed and promulgated at the federal level.

B-139. ASA is opposed to any local, state, or federal legislation or EPA actions to regulate particulate matter, gases, or odor from agriculture operations. (2015)

B-140. ASA supports the use of B20 and higher soybean biodiesel & bioheat blends as well as higher octane ethanol blends to immediately improve air quality by lowering emissions. (2021)

### **Sustainable Agriculture**

B-141. ASA supports biotechnology, commercial fertilizer, and commercial crop protection products as part of an integrated crop management system and believes that any definition of “sustainable agriculture” includes the use of these products. (2014)

B-142. ASA supports the statutory definition of sustainable agriculture, as included in the 1990 Farm Bill. Public Law 101-624, Title XVI, Subtitle A, Section 1603. Under that law, sustainable agriculture means “an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term:

- ☐ satisfy human food needs;
- ☐ enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends;
- ☐ make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls;
- ☐ sustain the economic viability of farm operations;
- ☐ enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.”

B-143. ASA supports an aggregate approach to documenting the sustainability of U.S. soybean production. ASA believes U.S. federal and state conservation, environmental and labor laws, and existing U.S. farmer compliance with them, provide assurance that U.S. soybeans are sustainably produced. We support premium structures that reflect the additional costs of industry-driven sustainability initiatives. (2016)

- B-144. ASA recognizes that American soybean production is the most sustainable and results in the highest quality and value in the world. ASA will work to ensure that our image is maintained while avoiding undue regulations and empowering movements that would jeopardize our competitive position. (2020)
- B-145. ASA opposes implementation of environmental actions or programs through local, state, or federal executive order in contravention to the U.S. or state constitutions, the Administrative Procedure Act, or other regulatory procedural statutes. (2021)
- B-146. ASA supports engaging in public and private research on best adaptations for crops and livestock, and implementation of conservation practices to maintain the productivity of land. We support pathways that strengthen production systems, improve profitability, and reduce environmental impacts. (2020)
- B-147. ASA recognizes the immense role that agriculture can play in meeting our nation's energy needs. ASA endorses the goal of securing 25% of the U.S. energy supply from America's farms, forests and rangeland by the Year 2025. The benefits to the environment, fuel security and the economic stimulus for rural areas justify the sizable investment in a new energy future. ASA supports the 25 x 25 initiative. (2020)
- B-148. ASA supports the use of and removing barriers and improving access to ~~the use of~~ pesticides, biotechnology, and the conservation practices they enable to further improve their environmental benefits. (2021)

### **Endangered Species**

- B-149. ASA recommends that benefits and economic impacts on farmers and consumers should be considered in laws and regulations designed to protect endangered species. (2020)
- B-150. ASA requests that laws and regulations designed to protect endangered species must be science-based. ASA supports legislation and education that would protect producers from unintentional impacts to endangered species. (2017)
- B-151. ASA supports voluntary-based efforts on private lands to improve honeybee, monarch butterfly, and other pollinator habitat and urges federal, state, and local governments to incorporate methods to improve such habitat on publicly owned lands. (2021)
- B-152. ASA supports the collaborative efforts of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) to provide regulatory predictability under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). (2020)

- B-153. ASA supports NRCS in developing a weed management plan that prevents the spread of weeds to adjacent areas while maintaining a refuge area for monarch butterflies during migration. The plan should allow for follow-up weed control during periods when monarch butterflies are not migrating.
- B-154. ASA supports geographically adapted, affordable seed mixes that are tested and approved, thus supporting the use of a broader range of regionally adapted, native, and milkweed species for habitat seeding. (2021)
- B-155. ASA supports having producers and landowners held harmless from possible federal regulations if any species for which farmers develop habitat is placed on the Endangered Species List. (2018)
- B-156. ASA supports exempting man-made agricultural structures from the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. (2020)

### **Wetlands**

- B-157. ASA supports public policies to maintain a navigable level of water in rivers and inland waterways by preventing the Corps of Engineers from assigning undue importance and priority to interests such as recreation to the detriment of power, municipal water supply, navigation, and flood control. (2020)
- B-158. ASA opposes additional land acquisition by government agencies with the purpose of increasing wetlands and recreation without consideration of the impact to inland drainage, navigation, and flood control. (2020)
- B-159. ASA supports the establishment of a local arbitration system for disputed determinations of wetlands and highly erodible lands. (2014)
- B-160. ASA requests that all federal agencies review and justify the use of river gauge data, frequency of inundation, and length of inundation to define a true agricultural wetland. After this review and justification, an emphasis should be placed on assigning an environmental value to said wetlands and allow the scope of normal farming practices to be assigned to that value.
- B-161. ASA recommends that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) be the federal agency responsible for making technical determinations on agricultural lands with respect to wetlands or converted wetlands. ASA recommends that Federal environmental regulations for farming related activities be administered by the NRCS at the local level, when possible.

- B-162. ASA supports the education to local and state NRCS that improves the profitability of farmable wetlands through subsurface drainage systems such as tiling which will also benefit conservation and erosion of farmland and improve productivity by establishing more surface residue.
- B-163. ASA recommends requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, when administering USFWS wetlands easements, to use NRCS guidelines for determining applicable setback distances from wetlands and for mitigation options in drainage projects. (2017)
- B-164. ASA requests that 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.
- B-165. ASA supports practices and policies that create permanent runoff reduction through increased crop water usage versus temporary retention through increased wetlands or dams for flood control.
- B-166. ASA requests that in the case of a wetland compliance violation, a penalty shall be assessed based on fair market tax value of said wetland. Said fine shall only apply to the wetland acreage found in non-compliance.
- B-167. ASA supports the timely determination of the FSA Form 1026 process. ASA supports on-site methods be used for certified wetland determinations at the landowner request. Landowners should have the choice in which methods are used for their wetland determinations. The process should be completed in 60 days and the appeal process should be completed in 30 days. (2015)
- B-168. ASA opposes use by NRCS of the wetland determination process as a deterrent to improvements to drainage systems, which may produce water quality and crop production benefits, as well as resiliency to climatic extremes. (2021)
- B-169. ASA requests that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implements consistent guidelines regarding the interpretation and determination of a wetland designation across county and state lines. (2018)
- B-170. ASA encourages the development of wetland mitigation banks and further, that mitigation is limited to a one-acre for one-acre basis.

- B-171. ASA supports a requirement of using aerial photos from the 1980 to 1990 timeframe for making wetland determinations.
- B-172. ASA recommends any land that has been planted one of the past four years should not be defined as a wetland. (2015)
- B-173. ASA supports the decision held by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in the case *Koshman v. Vilsack*, 865 F. Supp. 2d 1083 (2012) which rejected the USDA's interpretation that participant has converted a "farmed wetland" by improving yield or reducing crop stress through water management where the production of a commodity was viable prior to the drainage manipulation of the "farmed wetland." (2017)
- B-174. ASA recommends that wetland non-compliance determinations be limited to a three (3) year look back.

#### **Carbon, Climate, and Ecosystem Services Markets**

- B-175. ASA supports engagement in legislative and/or regulatory efforts that address Climate Change.
- B-176. ASA opposes agriculture being subject to greenhouse gas emission caps established in Climate Change legislation or regulation.
- B-177. ASA is opposed to the federal government signing or endorsing any climate accord treaty or implementing parts of the treaty by Executive Order that would have a negative effect on agriculture. (2021)
- B-178. ASA is opposed to any national or international carbon tax programs. (2016)
- B-179. ASA supports carbon sequestration research and related efforts to maximize the ancillary benefits of conservation practices that store carbon and other nutrients in soil.
- B-180. ASA recommends acknowledging the different soil types and climate norms across America's farming heartland when seeking to optimize carbon sequestering farming practices while balancing the challenges of economic sustainability. (2021)

- B-181. ASA supports working with stakeholders to develop incentives for producers who have maximized their carbon on the farm through carbon smart practices or other means. (2021)
- B-182. ASA supports farmers being able to enroll the same tract of land for multiple incentive-based payments addressing carbon sequestration, water quality, air quality, and any other future environmental credits of benefit to the society as a whole.
- B-183. ASA supports voluntary public and private sector carbon markets to be developed with sufficient research, oversight, standards, and farmer input that prioritize farmers through financial incentives, technical assistance, and public investments that are specific to agriculture. (2021)
- B-184. ASA supports voluntary public and private sector markets developed with sufficient research, oversight, standards, and farmer input, where farmers can sell ecosystem services credits from practices existing and newly adopted on their operation, such as soil carbon sequestration, water quality and quality management, and other ecosystem benefits. (2021)
- B-185. ASA supports the work of the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) to test protocols and processes that lead to a voluntary, national-scale ecosystem services market that incentivizes farmers and ranchers to adopt and enhance soil health management systems that benefit society. (2020)
- B-186. ASA supports that any policy involving direct and indirect land use metrics be based on multi-disciplinary, science-based, verifiable, and transparent data so that biodiesel's impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is accurately assessed.
- B-187. ASA opposes any attempt to assess duplicative lifecycle carbon costs to either animal agriculture or to biofuels as they are produced together and not individually from field crops. (2021)

## **EDUCATION FUNDING**

- B-188. ASA believes that a comprehensive K-12 agricultural education curriculum, delivered with the help and expansion of 4-H, FFA national ag-in-the-classroom, and similar programs are an important foundation for the future of America's agriculture. ASA encourages involvement by all groups representing agriculture, particularly the companies that are both our suppliers and our customers, who have an interest in a favorable public perception of agriculture. (2017)
- B-189. ASA encourages its members to provide active local, state, and national support for agricultural research and education projects and activities. (2017)
- B-190. ASA supports government, corporate, and privately sponsored education that increases public awareness of not only the stewardship and sustainability of our natural resources, but also the economics and risks involved in agricultural production. (2017)
- B-191. ASA calls for more effort by our land grant university system and all other public and private organizations and entities to increase responsible and accurate educational programs as a way to offset consumer concerns regarding biotechnology, food safety, renewable fuels, crop protection products, and animal agriculture.
- B-192. ASA encourages work with USB to create educational materials and opportunities to educate the public on the food chain and life cycle of soybeans (2021)
- B-193. ASA supports the original statutes creating land grant institutions intended to expand and enhance agriculture research and education. These include the Morrill Act and the Hatch Act (creating the experimental research stations) and the Smith-Lever Act (creating the Cooperative Extension Service), the Evans-Allen Program, and the 1890 Institutions Extension Services. (2021)
- B-194. ASA supports the National Association of Agriculture Educators and the National Council for Agriculture Education in the Teach Ag Campaign to combat the current national agriculture teacher shortage. (2015)

## **FARMER-FOCUSED POLICIES**

### **Contract Production**

- B-195. ASA recommends that farmers work together in cooperative ventures to gain increased access in a vertically integrated market environment.

### **Equity Protection of Grain**

- B-196. ASA will work with the USDA, other organizations, and governmental agencies at the state and federal level to develop adequate protection for farmer's equity in the event of grain warehouse or dealer failure.
- B-197. ASA opposes any federal warehouse dealer regulation that would supersede State licensing and warehouse regulations when it offers less protection for farmers.
- B-198. ASA supports grain warehouse regulations under which producers are provided a receipt to prove ownership upon delivery of grain, whether the grain is sold immediately or is delivered for storage.

### **Farm Continuation and Tax Policy**

- B-199. ASA supports efforts to revise the 1031 exchange provision in the tax code for like-kind exchanges to include personal property. (2021)
- B-200. ASA supports more funding and quicker distribution of funds for beginning farmers through the FSA Direct Loan Program, special young farmer loans, Farm Credit Associations and other sources. The percentage of residence allowance for beginning farmer loans should be raised from 5% to 20%.
- B-201. ASA supports efforts that would allow proceeds from the sale of qualified farm assets to be treated as an individual farmer retirement account to defer current capital gains taxes to a future date.
- B-202. ASA supports the exemption of estate tax treatment for inherited farmland and property. (2021)
- B-203. ASA supports retention of the opportunity for step-up basis at the time property is inherited. (2021)
- B-204. ASA supports efforts to allow for up to \$500,000 in lifetime tax credits for sale of used farm equipment to young or beginning farmers. (2021)
- B-205. ASA supports maintaining the current three-year income averaging programs for agricultural producers, including family farm corporations.
- B-206. ASA supports an increase in the maximum annual gift tax exemption. (2021)
- B-207. ASA is opposed to the application of the Alternative Minimum Tax on Schedule F. (2021)

- B-208. ASA urges that an individual who rents land or equipment to a family farm corporation, partnership, Limited Liability Corporation or any other farming entity not be subject to self-employment tax on rental income.
- B-209. ASA supports a change in the U.S. tax code to allow tax deductibility for permanent conservation practices to landowners that cash rent their land.
- B-210. ASA opposes double taxation when dissolving corporations.
- B-211. ASA supports the capital gain tax exclusion to include up to \$1,000,000 value of farm real estate. (2021)
- B-212. ASA supports a federal tax credit for farmers' investment in value-added agricultural ventures. ASA encourages federal support to provide technical assistance to commercialize value-added products as well as business structure assistance for farmer-owned value-added companies.
- B-213. ASA supports extending the time period allowed in a 1031 exchange for reinvestment of capital gains from 45 days to 12 months. (2021)
- B-214. ASA supports the full deductibility of health insurance premiums and contributions to Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) by the self-employed and supports equitable treatment for self-employed people under any new health care legislation. ASA supports affordable health care policies that provide continuous coverage without the threat of annual cancellation. (2017)
- B-215. ASA supports enactment of federal legislation that would help to lower the cost of Group Health Insurance plans by allowing participation in the Group regardless of state of residence.
- B-216. ASA supports 100% tax deductibility of health insurance premiums for all farm business or tax incentives available to agricultural producers that would provide a refundable tax credit equal to one half of the producer's annual healthcare premium cost. (2021)
- B-217. ASA supports legislation that would codify rulemakings from the Department of Labor that allow for self-employed, geographic, and similar industry inclusion for eligibility to form or join a multi-state Association Health Plan. (2019)
- B-218. ASA supports that 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.

- B-219. ASA supports making permanent 100% bonus depreciation. (2018)
- B-220. ASA opposes any proposal to require farmers to use accrual rather than cash accounting. (2014)
- B-221. ASA favors continued rebate of federal and state fuel taxes on fuels used in non-highway uses.
- B-222. ASA opposes the 3.8% tax on passive income recently instated by the Federal government to help fund national health care.
- B-223. ASA supports a 15% tax rate on the first \$50,000 of corporate taxable income. (2018)
- B-224. ASA opposes S-Corporation net income being subject to self-employment tax at the shareholder level. (2016)
- B-225. ASA supports basis step-ups on gifts and bequests and not treating transfers of appreciated property as a sale. (2016)
- B-226. ASA opposes any attempt by a federal government entity to enact a tax on agricultural products to fund infrastructure that is used by all citizens. (2016)
- B-227. ASA supports the use of valuation discounts of farm assets on the transfer of closely held farm entities. (2017)
- B-228. ASA supports the establishment of a farmer tax deferred account where higher than normal profits would be deposited and then withdrawn in lower profit years. (2017)
- B-229. ASA supports giving farmers the option to either treat traded in equipment as an ordinary gain, or as an income on a schedule F to prevent the elimination of the self-employed health insurance deduction and removal of farmers from the social security program. (2021)
- B-230. ASA supports expanding the provisions of the IRS Tax Code that work to protect farm inheritance. (2021)
- B-231. ASA supports raising the 7,500 mile exemption on the heavy vehicle tax to at least 15,000 miles. (2021)
- B-232. ASA supports eliminating the \$10,000 cap on the state and local tax deduction. (2021)

## **Property Rights**

- B-233. ASA endorses private property rights as set forth in the United States Constitution. ASA requests that farmers should be adequately compensated for loss in property value or income due to unsubstantiated land claims, environmental regulations such as endangered species, wetlands, and other government regulations. We also support a strong “Right to Farm” law.
- B-234. ASA requests that government agencies developing flood control projects must ensure that for any damages caused by the project to surrounding property, owners be fairly compensated.
- B-235. ASA realizes that production data such as field maps, soil tests, production records, images, and input records have monetary value. ASA requests that this information gathered by GPS, GIS, or other precision farming practices remain the sole property of the owner and/or operator, or their agent, based on their respective investment, regardless if the data collection was voluntary or involuntary. This information should not be used, released, or sold without consent. (2014)
- B-236. ASA supports national agricultural organizations working together on behalf of farmers and industry to develop standards to clarify policy for the acquisition, ownership, valuation, and utilization of agricultural data and provide educational opportunities for farmers on best use practices. (2015)
- B-237. ASA opposes condemnation, involuntary annexation, or mandatory restrictions that postpone or restrict the property rights of landowners without just compensation. (2020)
- B-238. ASA supports voluntary and practical programs for buying land development rights in order to preserve the land as green space or for farming.
- B-239. ASA supports not holding landowners responsible for costs associated with unlawful acts committed by others on a landowner’s property.
- B-240. ASA opposes the use of Eminent Domain for transferring ownership of private property to other private entities. (2017)
- B-241. ASA 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 roadways.
- B-242. ASA opposes federal executive orders that could deprive farmers of private property rights.

B-243. ASA supports legislation allowing a farmer to protect crops and livestock from wildlife destroying or attempting to destroy or injure crops or livestock. (2016)

B-244. ASA supports keeping all crop nutrients from being over-regulated so that it may remain an affordable option to producers and suppliers. (2016)

### **Financing**

B-245. ASA supports the participation of all types of lenders to provide businesses with loans or other financial arrangements to add value and find new uses for agricultural commodities.

B-246. ASA supports the Farm Credit Service (FCS) as a farmer-owned and controlled financial cooperative to meet the needs of agriculture.

B-247. ASA opposes any restructuring of FCS that replaces farmer-elected members of FCS Boards with commercial bankers or expands bank access to FCS funding.

B-248. ASA supports the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) ability to make direct loans and loan guarantees sufficient to meet producer requirements for operating funds that are not met by other farm lending institutions.

B-249. ASA supports adequate funding for FSA credit programs including:

- a. Increase of guaranteed loan limits
- b. Increase of the subsidy rate on guaranteed loans
- c. Interest assistance for guaranteed farm ownership loans
- d. Full funding of the direct Farm Ownership Loan Program
- e. Extended lifetime loan eligibility for FSA credit programs
- f. Waiver of the 1.5% fee for guaranteed loans
- g. Interest assistance on loans for building farmer-owned grain facilities
- h. Returning the FSA Interest Assistance Program for bank loans

B-250. ASA supports the USDA farm storage facility loan program with this exception: ASA recommends to USDA-FSA to establish terms of the loans to be the same regardless of the dollar amount of the loan.

B-251. ASA supports strengthening the FSA appeals process at all levels. (2016)

### **Farm Labor**

B-252. ASA recognizes that child safety is important. However, ASA opposes the Department of Labor proposing changes that limit the types of work minors could perform in agriculture.

B-253. ASA supports the process of streamlining the H2A work visa program.

B-254. ASA recognizes farm safety is an important issue. However, ASA opposes attempts by the Department of Labor to expand the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to include farms with less than 10 employees. (2014)

B-255. ASA supports a guest worker program that meets the needs of livestock and row crop farmers. (2019)

B-256. ASA opposes mandatory overtime pay and regulation of hours of work for farm employees. (2019)

B-257. ASA opposes a federal increase in national or regional minimum wage. ASA also does not support the Adverse Effect Wage Rate adjustments. (2021)

## **TITLE C. TRADE POLICY, FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY**

### **PREAMBLE**

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.

### **TRADE POLICY**

#### **General**

C-1. ASA supports the removal of barriers to international trade in soybeans, soybean products, as well as livestock, poultry and aquaculture products and the prevention of the establishment by other nations of barriers to the importation and consumption of U.S. soybeans, soybean products, as well as livestock products.

C-2. ASA opposes the use of restrictions such as tariffs or other market access barriers as a trade negotiating tactic that may precipitate retaliation against the export of U.S. soybeans, soybean-based products and livestock products. (2021)

C-3. ASA supports reauthorization of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). (2021)

- C-4. ASA opposes the imposition of restrictions on the export of any and all agricultural commodities including soybeans and soybean products, whether it is for supply, national security, or foreign policy reasons. Any embargo, sanction, or other restriction on exports of U.S. agricultural commodities for national security or foreign policy reasons shall require a formal determination by the President and Congress that such action is supported and joined by all other major world producers and exporters of affected commodities. Any action would terminate unless the President re-certifies this determination on an annual basis.
- C-5. Contract sanctity should be guaranteed for all foreign purchasers of U.S. agricultural commodities. ASA calls for the President and Congress to revise legislation that exempts sales of U.S. agricultural products from economic sanctions so that normal commercial credit can be offered by U.S. entities. ASA shall increase its efforts to inform U.S. soybean producers and consumers as to the scope and the ramifications of above said sanctions on U.S. farmers.
- C-6. ASA supports the immediate removal of agricultural trade, financial and travel restrictions for Cuba and urges Cuban eligibility for all authorized checkoff activities, including the Foreign Market Development (FMD), Market Access Programs (MAP), General Sales Manager (GSM) and other credit programs and to work with the current administration on changing the terminology through administrative action concerning credit. (2020)
- C-7. ASA supports measures to prohibit sovereign nations or global entities from setting environmental and/or water quality standards more stringent than federal or state regulations.
- C-8. ASA encourages the U.S. Government to focus on policies that grow U.S. agricultural trade/exports as the primary means of improving the US balance of trade rather than focusing on policies or actions that limit imports into the U.S. (2018)
- C-9. ASA opposes efforts by individual states to use information from international non-governmental entities to require unjustified, false or misleading warning labels on products. (2018)

#### **WTO Policies**

- C-10. ASA supports achievement of a Level Playing Field trading basis for oilseeds, oilseed products and plant-based oil and products in future negotiations. The Level Playing Field

approach is a multilateral phase-out of all trade distorting export subsidies, including differential export taxes, and all tariff and non-tariff barriers to oilseeds, oilseeds product and plant-based oil and product imports.

- C-11. ASA supports the strict enforcement of the Blair House Agreement (BHA) which sets a WTO-bound limit on subsidized oilseed production in the EU. (2021)
- C-12. ASA supports comprehensive WTO negotiations as the best means to increase worldwide incomes and reduce trade barriers to soy and livestock products. ASA stresses that bilateral or regional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations should be focused toward those countries that represent significant commercial markets for U.S. soybeans and products, livestock products, and agricultural exports in general.
- C-13. ASA recommends that the WTO negotiations encompass all sectors as a comprehensive single undertaking. This means that all aspects of the negotiations should be included and implemented simultaneously in order to get the best results for U.S. agriculture (i.e., no “early harvest” during the negotiations).
- C-14. ASA requests that any new WTO agreement reducing trade-distorting (i.e., “amber box”) domestic support must reflect the extent to which market access is increased in developing and developed countries through reductions in tariffs and other measures.
- C-15. ASA supports maintaining the “de minimus” exemption of product and non-product specific support from reductions required in trade-distorting domestic programs.
- C-16. ASA opposes any caps on “green box” domestic support policies. (2019)
- C-17. ASA supports establishing a rules-based system for disciplining the use of export credits and similar government supported export financing programs.
- C-18. ASA supports defining Differential Export taxes as export subsidies that would be subject to discipline and elimination in future WTO negotiating rounds. (2021)
- C-19. ASA opposes including disciplines on food assistance programs in the WTO negotiations.
- C-20. ASA opposes allowing countries to self-designate as “developing countries” for the purpose of obtaining special and differential treatment under the WTO. ASA supports the establishment of objective criteria for determining country eligibility to claim special and differential treatment overall or for certain sectors.

- C-21. ASA opposes exempting government supported domestic transportation and marketing subsidy programs in developing countries from disciplines under the WTO.
- C-22. ASA opposes the precautionary principle or other food safety concerns that are not science-based that could be used as a justification for restricting market access in WTO agreements.
- C-23. ASA supports “WTO-plus” sanitary and phytosanitary provisions that underscore the importance of harmonized, science-based regulations that facilitate trade and fully enforceable.
- C-24. ASA recognizes the key role the WTO Appellate Body plays in the WTO Dispute Settlement System. ASA supports solutions that would resolve the current impasse at the Appellate Body by appointing new members, therefore establishing a quorum and allowing the Appellate Body to function as intended. (2021)

#### **Regional and Bilateral Agreements**

- C-25. ASA supports Administration efforts to negotiate new trade agreements that include soybeans as a pillar trade good and improve market access opportunities for U.S. soybeans, soybean products, livestock products and new soybean-based products. (2021)
- C-26. ASA opposes any product exclusions from Free Trade Agreements (FTA) on the grounds that they serve as negative precedents for countries seeking to exclude soy or livestock products.
- C-27. ASA supports aggressively seeking Free Trade Agreements with basic and expansion markets defined in the soy family export strategy. (2019)
- C-28. ASA supports USMCA and enforcement of its provisions by all participating countries (2021)
- C-29. ASA supports efforts by the administration to negotiate with members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) for U.S. inclusion to improve market access for U.S. soybeans and soybean products. (2021)

### **Government Responsibilities**

- C-30. ASA opposes any proposal to merge the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) with other trade agencies. ASA recommends that USTR should remain an independent agency within the Executive Office of the President, focusing on trade negotiations, trade agreements and trade enforcement.
- C-31. ASA opposes currency legislation or any action by Congress to unilaterally regulate the value of foreign currencies. ASA recognizes that currency legislation would create retaliatory actions that would negatively affect soybean trade. Instead, ASA supports an approach by the U.S. that engages the international community in its efforts to address global foreign exchange policies.
- C-32. ASA opposes any proposal to move responsibility for food inspection and livestock product safety from USDA. (2017)
- C-33. ASA supports adoption of the Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol-Renewable Energy Directive II (SSAP-REDII) by the European Union. ASA strongly urges the U.S. government to engage with its European counterparts to push for adoption of SSAP-REDII by the European Commission. (2021)

## **FOREIGN MARKET PROMOTION AND EXPORT CREDIT PROGRAMS**

### **Foreign Market Development Programs**

- C-34. ASA supports the Foreign Market Development (FMD) and Market Access Program (MAP). FMD and MAP are successful public/private partnerships which are cooperative, cost-share programs between private industry groups that represent farmers and ranchers and the U.S. Government. ASA supports the doubling of annual funding from \$34.5 to \$69 million for FMD and from \$200 million to \$400 million for MAP. (2019)

### **Export Credit Guarantee Programs**

- C-35. ASA supports continuation of General Sales Manager (GSM) 102 export credit guarantee programs at a minimum funding level of \$4 billion and supports efforts at USDA to implement procedures that allow the GSM 102 program to function in a flexible and efficient manner. (2021)

### **Government Responsibilities: Marketing and Export**

- C-36. 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.
- C-37. ASA recommends that USB and QSSBs appropriate funds for international marketing to qualify and fully maximize USDA/FAS matching funds.
- C-38. ASA urges Congress and the Administration to aggressively support P.L. 480 and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) grant programs and initiatives to expand exports of U.S. soybeans and soybean products.
- C-39. ASA supports the use of CODEX (Codex Alimentarius collection of food standards) standards for maximum residual levels of animal health products in livestock trade internationally. (2021)
- C-40. ASA supports the continued development and adoption of international standards for Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) for Plant Protection Products (PPP) set by CODEX that are developed using science-based risk assessments. (2021)
- C-41. ASA supports the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) set by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). (2021)
- C-42. ASA shall continue to be the U.S. soybean growers' International Marketing Contractor with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### **INTERNATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICIES**

#### **International Regulatory Approvals and Commercialization**

- C-43. ASA will actively support the efforts of biotechnology and seed companies to obtain regulatory clearances in significant U.S. export markets, using both ASA policy and international marketing resources.
- C-44. ASA supports an expedited process for approval and acceptance of biotechnology products in international markets. (2015)

- C-45. ASA supports establishing a process to maintain foreign registrations of biotech traits in countries that require them as long as traces of a trait are identified in export shipment.
- C-46. ASA supports timely international regulatory clearances in U.S. soy export markets for all new soybean varieties prior to U.S. commercialization. (2021)
- C-47. ASA supports strict controls of soy export and planting seed channels should U.S. regulatory clearance be obtained for a new biotech product prior to international regulatory clearance in all U.S. soy export markets. (2021)
- C-48. ASA supports seed and trait developers to ensure adequate intellectual property protection and value capture systems are in place in cultivating countries to ensure growers are paying appropriate royalties similar to U.S. growers. (2021)
- C-49. ASA supports ensuring patent protection for seed technologies in other countries have similar expiration to the patent protection offered for that same technology in the U.S. (2021)
- C-50. ASA urges the soybean industry to work to ensure that financial liability for soybean products that contain unintended and unapproved traits in soybeans and products to be appropriated to the responsible parties.

### **Low Level Presence**

- C-51. ASA supports efforts to establish a commercially viable and internationally accepted LLP tolerance of not less than five percent for the presence of any deregulated biotechnology event in shipments and products in order to ensure the competitiveness of U.S. soy exports in world markets and prevent disruptions in trade. Low Level Presence (LLP) refers to low level unintentional introduction of biotech derived plant material in grain or feed that has been through a full safety and risk assessment in one or more countries, but not the country of import. ASA encourages USDA to collaborate with its counterparts in Australia and other countries to formally propose a 5% threshold within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention. The value chain must cooperate to steward new technologies when unique functional characteristics impact commodity markets below 5%. (2016)

## **ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

### **Foreign Food Assistance**

- C-52. ASA supports uses of food in emergency and development assistance. ASA opposes budgetary reductions in developmental food aid to compensate for emergency

shortfalls. ASA supports PL480 programs and total Title II budget at a level of \$1.5 billion.

- C-53. ASA supports the continued funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program at no less than \$200 million, the Food for Progress program at no less than \$200 million and supports seeking additional funding from other U.S. and G-8 sources.

### **International Agricultural Development**

- C-54. ASA urges U.S. and multilateral institutions to consider long-term environmental consequences and benefits when allocating funds to developing nations for projects that could result in large-scale land clearing or deforestation. ASA opposes U.S. tax dollars being used by American and multilateral institutions and universities to fund competition for U.S. soybeans and soybean products.
- C-55. ASA urges the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to continue its policy of not funding programs that promote foreign production resulting in the exports of soybeans and soybean products and would encourage that this policy be extended to crops which compete with soybeans and soybean products. ASA encourages USAID to increase funding of programs that expand international use of soybeans and soybean products and encourages USAID to support ASA in developing and implementing such programs.
- C-56. U.S. soybean farmers recognize that agricultural development in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) can help drive economic development worldwide. U.S. soybean farmers commit to working with participants in the soybean value chain targeting subsistence farmers to improve nutrition to their community, raise themselves from poverty and develop strong local markets providing such assistance complies with current agricultural policy and law (Bumpers Amendment of 1986).
- C-57. ASA supports legislation realigning U.S. international agricultural development programs to focus primarily on increasing productivity and profitability of small farmers in underdeveloped countries and to put USDA and the U.S. agriculture community in the center of these efforts through research, land grant education and extension, technology transfer, and programs to develop value chains and local markets. (2015)
- C-58. ASA supports full funding for the Cochran Program, and the Office of Capacity Building and Development's efforts to link this program with other programs, such as the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. (2016)

- C-59. ASA is committed to developing relationships with commercial entities in the private sector to address protein deficiencies and under-nutrition. WISHH will encourage companies in the U.S. and developing world to use soy as a supplement to local foods and will reach out to both, food processing companies and manufacturing companies to develop soy fortified, protein rich products. (2015)
- C-60. ASA supports changes to or elimination of monetization in USDA's Food for Progress program to allow for improved delivery and implementation. (2020)

### **Quality, Grading and Sustainability Standards**

- C-61. ASA supports the following principles as long-term objectives in any revisions or updating of present standards to:
- a. Define uniform and accepted descriptive terms to facilitate trade.
  - b. Provide the information for the market to create incentives to improve the overall quality of soybeans.
  - c. Provide information for the end user to help determine end product yield and quality.
  - d. Provide information for the farmer to help select varieties of greatest value.
  - e. Require that grading factors have a definable economic value.
  - f. Encourage development of soybean standards that will set standard for U.S. soybeans at 1% foreign material (FM) in export and domestic markets. ASA will strive to implement grain standards to assure the best product available for our customers. To fully accomplish this task ASA must request the full cooperation of the grain traders in adhering to these quality requirements for exported soybeans to the end user.
  - g. Both public and commercial soybean breeders and producers should be represented on committees formed to develop grain quality standards for soybeans and to cooperate with other farm groups to set international standards for specialty grains.
  - h. Soybeans should be purchased on a 13% moisture standard. (2017)
- C-62. ASA encourages a study be undertaken by the appropriate governmental agencies, farmer leaders and industry representatives to determine the need for additional intrinsic testing capabilities, revised procedures, or other controls resulting from the rapid growth in volume and number of differentiated identity preserved marketing's of enhanced trait soybeans.

- C-63. ASA supports a grading and marketing system that recognizes the intrinsic quality and value of soybeans and to reward farmers who are capable of producing and marketing soybeans of enhanced value to users.
- C-64. ASA encourages strict enforcement of the handling of any treated seed to ensure it does not get into any commercial shipment of U.S. soybeans.
- C-65. ASA recognizes the need for reasonable seed tolerance levels that allow for movement of seed within international trade. ASA stresses that such tolerances, however, must be linked directly with accompanying tolerances for the resulting commodity products.
- C-66. ASA supports the continued successful implementation and refinement of the Sustainability Assurance Protocol and Soy Export Sustainability LLC to promote the sustainability of U.S. soybeans to buyers worldwide. (2016)
- C-67. ASA is concerned about recent policy and food standard initiatives which assign 5.71 as the nitrogen to protein conversion factor for soy which can have a significant negative impact on the perception of soy as a nutritious and high-quality protein. ASA urges the U.S. Codex delegation and other regulatory agencies to continue to support the existing regulatory policy and Codex Standards that accept 6.25 as the nitrogen to protein conversion factor for soy. (2015)
- C-68. ASA supports removing economic incentives that promote inefficiencies and undesired practices that would include the reintroduction of any foreign material into customer shipments of soybeans. (2016)
- C-69. ASA opposes USDA policy that requires an additional declaration on the Phytosanitary Certificate for U.S. Soybean shipments to China of #2 soybeans that are over 1% Foreign Material (FM). (2020)

## **TITLE D. ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **PREAMBLE**

ASA is a national, not-for-profit, grassroots membership organization that develops and advocates policies to increase the profitability and trade of U.S. soybean farmers, and the entire soybean industry. (2017)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- D-1. ASA is made up of affiliated state soybean associations and their members, who provide the leadership, and guidance to help make ASA successful. Investments by state affiliates in ASA programs provide key funding to support ASA's policy, trade and advocacy work. Membership is a state-operated program, whereby members of affiliated state soybean associations receive complimentary membership in ASA. (2017)
- D-2. ASA believes that its state affiliates and farmer members must continue to maintain support and governance of ASA. State affiliates and their members generate farmer involvement and investment in ASA, strengthen ASA's policy influence and provide future leadership for the organization. (2017)
- D-3. To meet the needs of state affiliates and their members the Association should seek their input and should communicate directly with them. (2017)

## **CHECKOFF AND PROMOTION**

- D-4. ASA supports continuation of the national soybean checkoff and encourages soybean farmers to support the same. ASA believes that the national soybean checkoff is an important tool to help soybean farmers develop new uses, conduct production research and expand domestic and foreign markets.
- D-5. ASA supports the original intent of the Soybean Promotion and Research Checkoff (SPARC).
- D-6. ASA supports commodity and livestock checkoff programs and supports the stance that any and all funds may not be used for any government deficit or general fund needs.
- D-7. ASA, as the cooperator with USDA-FAS, fully supports USSEC as the international marketing contractor for ASA and USB and is committed to working as a partner with USSEC and USB to promote U.S. soybeans and soybean products worldwide.
- D-8. ASA believes it should maintain a shared leadership role with USB in implementing international market development efforts through USSEC. (2017)

- D-9. ASA supports ASA and state soybean associations in contracting with USB and QSSB's and earning a reasonable management fee.
- D-10. ASA supports policy that would ensure that USB, USSEC, QUALISOY & QSSB'S use ASA and state associations as primary contractors and coordinators for policy development for any non-restricted dollars they may generate. (2017)
- D-11. ASA encourages all soybean farmers to voluntarily be a member of their state soybean grower association and ASA, so they better understand how policy and active farmer involvement complements their checkoff funded successful marketing, research and education efforts for U.S. soybean farmer profitability. (2016)
- D-12. ASA recommends that the appointees to all federal commodity checkoff boards be active producers of their commodity.
- D-13. ASA encourages USDA to select the first nominees from QSSB's to serve on USB.
- D-14. ASA urges that the ASA and USB Executive Committees meet at least twice annually to develop common goals and evaluate programs to benefit the U.S. soybean producer.
- D-15. ASA encourages USB to continue to support research to advance soy biodiesel and soy bio-based products (2014)

## **INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY**

- D-16. ASA and affiliates appreciate the support they are receiving from their current agribusiness partners and encourage other agricultural allied industries to consider providing financial and in-kind investments in ASA programs.
- D-17. Leadership skills are more and more valuable as the industry further expands into global markets. ASA greatly appreciates all corporate and checkoff funded programs that develop leadership and relationships and reach new people in the industry.
- D-18. ASA supports USB's efforts to educate the general public about the positive aspects of production agriculture inclusive of biotechnology, conventional and organic systems with particular emphasis on soybeans and allied commodities. (2017)

- D-19. ASA supports efforts by commodity and rural interest groups to reach out to non-ag groups to build positive relationships and improve communication.
- D-20. ASA supports the United States Farmers and Ranchers Alliance and Common Ground programs at the national level.
- D-21. ASA encourages cooperation with other farm organizations to promote and implement farm safety and education programs. ASA encourages farm families to develop, maintain, and implement aggressive farm safety practices to help protect our current and future generations.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

- D-22. One of the primary services provided by ASA to its state affiliates and their members should be to operate an effective governmental relations program. To be a more effective national policy voice for U.S. soybean farmers, ASA should continue to build coalitions and develop congressional contacts, as well as be sensitive to both national and/or state concerns as they are addressed by national policy. (2017)
- D-23. ASA supports the continuation of a Political Action Committee (PAC) to support issues and individual candidates supportive of ASA policies.
- D-24. Realizing the importance of a united front in the policy area and the need to develop a positive public image of farmers and agriculture, ASA leadership should maintain a continuing dialogue and work with general farm organizations, commodity groups, urban interests, and others to achieve our policies and objectives.

## **FINANCE AND VIABILITY**

- D-25. The ASA Voting Delegate body directs the ASA Governing Committee to examine the annual resolutions and formulate a priority list that takes into account available monetary and human resources. The draft copy shall be submitted to the ASA Board for review, amended if necessary, and adopted in a timely manner.
- D-26. The ability of soybean associations to successfully impact the issues of importance to soybean farmers is largely determined by the financial strength of these organizations. As such, maintaining financially viable state and national soybean associations is paramount, and innovative fundraising strategies should be pursued.

- D-27. Continued support and work should be maintained to ensure the viability and strength of ASA as the national soybean policy organization for state affiliates, their members, and the soybean industry. (2017)
- D-28. The name American Soybean Association (ASA) should continue to be used for domestic and international policy work and the name American Soybean Association-International Marketing (ASA-IM) used for market development activities involving USSEC and the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH).