

CA State Board of Food and Agriculture
Ag Policy Resolution

WHEREAS, California has been the nation's top agricultural State since 1948; and

WHEREAS, California farmers and ranchers produce more than 350 crop and livestock commodities which generates more than \$100 billion in related economic activity for the state; and

WHEREAS, California's farmers, ranchers and processors deliver *safe* food and a broad spectrum of high quality nutritious agricultural products through *responsible* environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, California farmers use the best available science and are innovators in the use of technology in an effort to feed the world through environmentally sound sustainable farming practices; and

WHEREAS, agricultural systems of the state of California represent a component of the nation's critical infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, California farmers are increasingly challenged on many fronts such as urbanization of farm land; and often conflicting government regulations, taxes and fees that undermine competitiveness with other states and globally; an invasion of plant and animal pests and diseases; an unsustainable energy policy; growing constraints for the application of the state's historical water supply for agriculture; and increasing impetus to strand agricultural operators with the costs to improve air and water quality; and

WHEREAS, California's regulatory programs relating to agriculture are often fragmented and uncoordinated; and

WHEREAS, California's infrastructure is not being maintained and expanding to adequately meet the needs of the growing population and the agriculture producers necessary to support that population;

RESOLVED, that the State Board strongly believes that a process must be adopted to address issues affecting California agriculture that arise in state government to ensure that the decision making process requires active involvement by the Department of Food and Agriculture and the agricultural community and results in balanced decisions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this process be formalized to ensure consistency from one administration to another in order to protect public, environmental health and the viability of our agricultural community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the administration continue general fund support for all prevention, detection, and eradication programs that protect California's environment and the State's economy from invasive plant and animal pests and diseases; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State invest in its future by increasing the public investment in research, education and extension to equip and prepare agricultural producers with the ability to respond and adapt to regulatory pressures and competition for natural resources with economically feasible, science-based solutions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Food and Agriculture, meeting in Sacramento on April 27, 2005 strongly urges the Governor, his administration, and the California State Legislature, to be responsive in working to ensure that the California agriculture community remains competitive in its ability to produce and deliver a safe, reliable and nutritious food supply for all Californians.

Subscribed
Helen Lopez, Executive Director

Approved May 25, 2005