

General State Priorities for 2017

Water Quality Issues

Water quality programs should be based in science, rely on our land grant university system, and encompass modern agriculture practices. Voluntary incentive programs have the greatest proven participation to minimize environmental impact, optimize harvest yield, and maximize nutrient use.

Transportation

Transportation infrastructure should be modernized to maintain and enhance agriculture's global competitiveness.

- Funding should be fair and equitable, not hinder the state's business climate, and be used for its intended purpose.
- The federal Hours-of-Service provisions for agriculture (outlined in MAP-21) should be fully implemented.
- The Mississippi River locks should be upgraded to 1,200 ft. to improve transportation on our river systems and provide access to a global market.

Pollinators

State Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s) should be voluntary and communications-oriented. MP3s should include best management practices based on sound science, developed through collaboration between state departments of agriculture, land grant universities, beekeepers, and members of the agriculture industry.

Use of Pesticides

Policy for use of neonicotinoids should be science-based, focus on agricultural productivity, and improve pollinator health.

Tax Incentives

Tax incentives for agribusiness investment and expansion should be preserved and clarified so as to ensure qualification of existing and future endeavors.

Sustainability

Sustainability programs for agriculture systems should be science-based, voluntary, and industry driven to encourage innovation.