



POLICY RESOLUTIONS



FOREWORD

The Sangamon County Farm Bureau is interested in preserving farmland and the economic, social, and political contexts that foster the enterprise of farming. In pursuit of that interest, the Farm Bureau will actively support or oppose policies, plans, or practices of individuals, groups, entities, or governmental units based on the following policies and precepts adopted by the Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

1. RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

We support:

1. County and municipal adoption of a resolution recognizing the importance of agriculture and its natural resource base.
2. Agriculture's recognition as an integral part of the local economic and natural resource base, which is a critical source of food, fiber, and fuel.
3. The recognition of prime farmland as an irreplaceable natural resource that provides valuable agricultural, economic, environmental, historical, cultural, and aesthetic benefits and will encourage its preservation for use in cropland, agricultural structures, and supporting agricultural businesses.

2. AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION

We support:

1. Compact and contiguous development with an emphasis on infill development and redevelopment.
2. Encouragement of landowners to establish agricultural areas and/or conservation easements.
3. A prominent role for LESA (Land Evaluation and Site Assessment) in the decision-making process before issuance of a zoning change or variance.
4. The periodic review of the Sangamon County LESA System for possible updates.
5. Protection of the property rights of neighbors on a level equal to those of developers.
6. The principle that property ownership entails both rights and responsibilities.
7. Policies and ordinances resulting in the retention of large blocks of farmland and the maintenance of Sangamon County's agricultural landscape character.

3. PLANNING AND ZONING

Adopted by
The Sangamon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors
2/21/2022

We support:

1. The ability for farmers to cultivate any legalized crop anywhere in Sangamon County.
2. The ability to transport any legalized crop as it pertains to delivering the crop to market.
3. The creation of an Agribusiness zoning district to promote the attraction and development of agribusiness in the county.
4. Strict ordinance standards for siting of energy projects in Sangamon County. Such projects include solar, wind, pipelines, electrical transmission, etc.
5. Cluster development with access to local roadways by common street instead of multiple individual driveways.
6. The protection of agriculture-related businesses from adjacent incompatible land uses.
7. The use of reverse setbacks or buffers to separate farm fields from non-farm development to reduce the potential for rural/suburban conflict.
8. Limiting the creation of additional lots from small existing lots.
9. The conservation, protection, and sustainable use of natural resources.
10. Providing written correspondence to landowners and governmental entities whose property is within 1½ miles of a parcel for which a zoning change is proposed.
11. The expansion and siting of new agricultural businesses within the county.
12. The preparation and adoption of an agriculture-friendly County Comprehensive Plan.

4. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL DISTRICTS

We support:

The allowance of one non-farm residential lot per forty acres owned with a maximum lot size of two acres.

5. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

We support:

1. Intergovernmental agreements in response to rural emergencies in Sangamon County. This includes, but is not limited to the State Police, Sangamon County Sheriff's Department and Towns/Villages for the purpose of working together to provide a timely response when a rural emergency occurs regardless of jurisdiction.

6. PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

We support:

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1. Infrastructure improvements in Sangamon County that allows for the most efficient operation of modern farming practices.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We support:

1. Bi-directional and continuous dialogue between Sangamon County Farm Bureau and units of local government to best address Farm Bureau members' interests.
2. County board districts that provide equal representation of rural and urban interests.
3. Maintaining a County Land Use Committee as a subset of Sangamon County Government that is represented proportionate to the percentage of rural cases to come before it.
4. Actively endorsing candidates for elected local government offices through the use of our Political Action Committee based on their level of support of issues and topics relative to the membership of Sangamon County Farm Bureau.

8. TAXATION

We support:

1. Fair taxing policies that do not disproportionately burden farms and agriculturally based businesses.
2. Taxing bodies taking into account of the total tax burden on individuals and businesses rather than just the single tax levy it is responsible for.