

Agriculture



NATURAL LAW PARTY OF COLORADO

1140 US Hwy 287 Suite 400-126
Broomfield, CO 80020
720-562-8503/877-456-1732
www.natural-law-colorado.org



THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE

The Natural Law Party envisions a time when American farmers will farm in full accord with the laws of nature, fully utilizing nature's creativity to yield abundant, healthy food, while protecting the environment and ensuring a vigorous, diversified, sustainable agricultural economy. The future of agriculture depends on its sustainability -- that is, the ability of agricultural policies and practices to preserve and strengthen the farming economy, ecology, and community for future generations.

U.S. agriculture policies are not working. Many believe that there needs to be crucial, fundamental changes in agriculture policy, especially regarding small family farms and the environment.

1. Financially unsustainable
 - Farm subsidies continue to unduly favor the nation's largest farms.
 - From 1988 to 1993, even the most economically profitable farms averaged only a 3-5% return on stockholder equity; food manufacturers, on the other hand, averaged 16.5%.
2. Environmentally unsustainable
 - Conventional agriculture erodes and degrades soil; it requires large-scale use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers that pollute groundwater and are unhealthy for consumers and farmers.
 - The explosion of factory hog farms, cattle feedlots, and poultry operations has increased livestock concentrations, confinement housing, and separation of animals from their natural environments.
3. Socially unsustainable
 - Conventional agriculture has led to decaying communities in rural America that continue to lose population, business, and even their reason to exist, reducing farmers to corporate laborers.

The Natural Law Party supports legislation that will ensure social, economic, and environmental sustainability of agriculture and has identified solutions to the problems faced by U.S. agriculture:

1. The U.S. should change its policy focus from "cheap (and unsafe) food for the consumer" to "quality food for the consumer on a sustainable basis."
2. Farm policies should be redirected to expand opportunities for new and existing farmers to prosper using sustainable systems that will enhance the health of the farmers and the population as a whole.
3. Field-tested techniques supported by scientific research, such as integrated pest management, integrated crop management, and organic farming, exist for farming profitably on a low-input, sustainable basis
4. Farm communities should seek new ways to keep "value-added" processes and profits as close as possible to the farm.
5. Family-sized farms should be protected and strengthened through more programs that support value-added incentives, assistance for minority and beginning farmers, and other initiatives to empower farmers and rural communities to work towards revitalizing rural life.

A REASON TO VOTE

- √ **Ending special interest control of our politics** by eliminating PACs and soft money, establishing public sponsorship of election campaigns, and prohibiting lobbying by former public servants.
- √ **Ensuring a strong economy** through powerful pro-growth tax and fiscal policies, and through proven education, job training, and apprenticeship programs that will ensure a highly qualified and productive work force.
- √ **Cutting taxes deeply and responsibly** by reducing government waste, fraud, and the national debt, and by implementing cost-effective solutions to costly social problems, while protecting crucial programs such as Social Security and Medicare.
- √ **Creating a true health care system** - as opposed to a disease care system bought and paid for by special interests - by supporting prevention-oriented health care programs proven to prevent disease, promote health, and save money in the best possible way, by keeping people healthy.
- √ **Creating energy self-sufficiency** by ending our costly addiction to foreign oil and developing renewable, safe, nonpolluting energy resources such as wind and solar – saving billions of dollars in health and environmental costs.
- √ **Strengthening education** by supporting programs that develop the student's full potential through curriculum innovations proven to increase intelligence, creativity, and academic performance.
- √ **Preventing crime** – not warehousing criminals – through effective criminal and drug rehabilitation programs, and through proven programs to reduce high levels of individual and societal stress.
- √ **Safeguarding America's food supply** through sustainable, organic agricultural practices proven to produce healthy, high-quality food without hazardous chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- √ **Mandatory labeling and safety testing of genetically engineered foods**, and a moratorium on the release of these experimental life-forms into the environment until proven safe.
- √ **Promoting more prosperous and harmonious international relations** by shifting our meddlesome and invasive foreign policy away from the export of weapons towards the export of U.S. know-how in entrepreneurship, education, sustainable agriculture, and environmental technologies.