

4. FARM INCOME AND STRUCTURE

The economic well-being of Illinois farmers will continue to be the NUMBER ONE PRIORITY issue of the Illinois Agricultural Association. We encourage opportunities for all segments of agriculture.

We support:

1. The freedom of individual farmers to make their own economic decisions.
2. Programs and legislation of an innovative nature which increase net farm income.
3. Programs and legislation which could include items such as agricultural recapitalization, farm asset transfer plans, lowering input costs through technology, and beginning farmer education and loan programs.
4. Provisions that will protect farmers' investments, even as unsecured creditors, in prepaid agricultural inputs.
5. Research and development of new marketing, finance, computer, farm business management, and personal development programs as needed to improve member income and efforts to increase members' use of those programs.
6. Monitoring and encouraging appropriate federal and state agencies, and to monitor the retail-to-farm price spreads for all major agricultural commodities.
7. Open markets to link members with economic opportunities, including cooperative ventures, presented by rapid changes in agriculture.
8. Facilitating value-added opportunities for farmers.
9. Monitoring trends affecting farmers and strive to place an increased emphasis on educational programs for farmers on various opportunities available.