

9. HIGHER EDUCATION

We support:

1. Eligibility guidelines for publicly financed college scholarships, loans and grants to ensure farm youth have equal opportunity.
2. Retention and enhancement of agricultural curriculum and research at institutions of higher learning.
3. A coordinated long-range plan developed by the state institutions of higher learning to maintain quality agricultural education and research facilities.
4. Student loans and continued efforts to recover principal and interest from persons who have defaulted on their government-backed guaranteed student loans.
5. Co-Curricular agricultural organizations which allow hands-on experience for students to further develop their leadership skills.
6. A balance between professors' classroom instruction and research time at institutions of higher learning.
7. Continued collaboration between state supported higher education institutions to implement standardized curricula, including credit hours awarded and requirement fulfilled for the course, to make it easier for students to transfer between all levels of institutions of higher learning.
8. The continuation of the University of Illinois "South Farms." Further university expansion and community development should not sacrifice the advantages which the "South Farms" currently provide for the teaching and research needs of agriculture.
9. The continuation and funding of the existing University of Illinois outlying research centers. Before any long term changes are made at any of the centers, we encourage seeking input from local stakeholders at or near the center.
10. The study of funding quality and cooperation of agricultural programs at institutions of higher education.
11. Changing the selection process for all state of Illinois funded public university Boards of Trustees in order to make the board more accountable to the voters and taxpayers of the state. We will also seek changes in how these Boards of Trustees conduct their meetings in order to ensure items cannot be added to the agenda and voted on without public debate and input.
12. Colleges and universities giving significant weight, recognition, and credits where available to agricultural courses within their admission process.

We oppose:

1. Efforts of the Illinois Board of Higher Education to mandate additional course requirements for entrance to Illinois public universities.
2. The selling and privatization of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's secondary market student loan portfolio.