

90. FOOD LABELING

We will support:

1. Promotion of increased use of nutritional information on food labels.
2. Proper labeling of foods, fibers, and other agricultural products.
3. Specification of the source of protein whether animal or plant based.
4. Establishing criteria for a certification process and corresponding legislation for country of origin labeling. The process should support farmer self-certification of origin of livestock; operate under a presumption of domestic origin; and not be financially burdensome to farmers in establishing record keeping criteria.
5. Enactment of a similar labeling law in the United States like other nations to separate different classes of beverages to specify milk as a product of an animal's mammary gland.
6. Development of a "U.S. Product" label for products that are originated, produced, and processed in the U.S.
7. A voluntary labeling and/or traceability system for identity-preserved agricultural and food products that is based on a clear and factual certification process in order to ensure the health, safety, and integrity of the product, and enhance the ability of the farmer to capture a value-added return.
8. Voluntary labeling of biotech or non-biotech products when an approved certification process is in place including:
 - A. The development of a consumer-friendly icon or label indicating presence of genetically modified materials in food.
 - B. Positive labeling of biotech products that is science-based, truthful, and not misleading.
9. The science-based labeling policies of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including:
 - A. No special labeling unless a food is significantly different than its traditional counterpart, or where a specific constituent is altered (e.g., nutritionally or when affecting allergenicity).
 - B. Voluntary labeling using statements which are truthful and not misleading.
10. Vigorous enforcement of FDA food labeling guidelines for domestic and imported products.
11. Enforcement of federal statute that specifies commodities at a farmer's market in Illinois must disclose the address of the farm where each product is produced.

We will oppose:

1. Negative labeling of food products as being derived from the use of biotechnology.
2. Labels that state or imply organic food is superior to traditional agri-food products or that imply negative consequences of consuming non-organic foods over organic products.
3. The use of "all natural" and "GMO free" synonymously with "organic" as a way to avoid farmer certification as an organic grower.