



# 2021 Policies and Resolutions

This document was drafted by the 2020 Policies and Resolutions Committee and approved by voting delegates at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Please contact your Policies and Resolutions Committee representative or email [governmentrelations@landolakes.com](mailto:governmentrelations@landolakes.com) with any proposed revisions for 2021.

## 2021 Policies and Resolutions Committee (to be updated to 2021 list early March)

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Region</b>
Harley	Buys	Ag 1
Steve	Sjostrom	Ag 1
Brian	Hicks	Ag 1
Charlie	Hamilton	Ag 2
Dave	Huper	Ag 2
Ryan	Rother	Ag 2
Harold	Spire	Ag 3
Amelia	Kent	Ag 3
Donald	Schnitker	Ag 4
Andy	Snider	Ag 4
Andrea	Kilker	Ag 5
Darren	Taber	Ag 5
Claudia	Bechtel	Dairy 51
John	Hess	Dairy 52
Tim	Kurtz	Dairy 53
Wayne	Saemrow	Dairy 65
Vacant		Dairy 66
Barry	Fenendael	Dairy 68
Dave	Bangart	Dairy 68
J.J.	Nunes	Dairy 80
John	Oostdam	Dairy 80
B	Van Beek	Dairy 80
Matthew	Evangelo	Dairy 80
E.J.	de Jong	Dairy 80

1 **1. Cooperatives**

2 **Policy**

3 Cooperatives provide American farmers with a way to have market influence, improve returns, and better  
4 compete in a national and international marketplace. Land O'Lakes supports the cooperative system and its  
5 ability to provide training for members and employees, encourage diverse participation in agribusiness, and  
6 educate consumers on agriculture. We strongly believe cooperatives should continue to be exempt from  
7 antitrust laws to the limited extent provided in the Capper-Volstead Act. We also support the authorization of  
8 representative voting by cooperatives in promotion and market orders.

9 Cooperatives should encourage diverse membership participation. Effective member communication,  
10 education and leader development are critical to the future. We encourage cooperatives to provide leader  
11 development training and provide opportunities for members to actively participate in cooperative governance.  
12 We support educational and research programs focused on cooperatives by universities, and state and  
13 national associations, to improve cooperative effectiveness. Cooperatives should provide continuous  
14 professional improvement to cooperative management staff and collaborate with similar programs provided by  
15 colleges and business schools.

16 **Resolutions**

17 Land O'Lakes supports

- 18 • State laws that are consistent with federal law regarding the limited anti-trust exemption available to  
19 farmer cooperatives.
- 20 • USDA serving as a leader and advocate on behalf of farmer cooperatives within the Administration.
- 21 • Legislative leadership via the Congressional Farmer Cooperative Caucus.
- 22 • Effective cooperative programs within the USDA Rural Business and Cooperative Service, including  
23 research, technical assistance, education, and administration of cooperative grant programs.

24 Land O'Lakes opposes

- 25 • Legislative or administrative efforts to repeal, limit, or undermine the ability of farmers to work together  
26 through their cooperatives, as stated by Capper-Volstead or any other act.
- 27 • Legislation that would limit the authority of a cooperative's board of directors, as specified by the  
28 cooperative's articles and bylaws, to represent the cooperative's members and to act on their behalf.

29 **2. Farm Safety Net**

30 **Policy**

31 Market-oriented farm programs are essential to providing a reliable safety net to help family farmers withstand  
32 inherent volatility in agriculture production and promoting food security through cost effective programs. The  
33 Farm Bill is a useful forum and tool for drafting, evaluating, and implementing risk management, trade, rural  
34 development, conservation, research, farm credit, food and nutrition, and energy programs that are beneficial to  
35 Americans.

36 **Resolutions**

37 Land O'Lakes supports

- 1 • Maintaining strong farm policy through the Farm Bill.
- 2 • Effective commodity programs with reasonable program eligibility requirements.
- 3 • Insurance programs to manage risk exposure.
- 4 • Timely and efficient operation of the Dairy Margin Coverage program authorized in the farm bill as a
- 5 viable and effective domestic safety net for producers. The Secretary of Agriculture’s use of his/her
- 6 authority to purchase dairy products for feeding programs in times of low production margins through a
- 7 dairy donation program authorized in the farm bill.

#### 8 Land O'Lakes opposes

- 9 • Changes to or the elimination of current programs that result in a net reduction of benefits provided to
- 10 farmers.

### 11 **3. Sustainability**

#### 12 **Policy**

13 Land O'Lakes is committed to protecting the environment through responsible corporate and business

14 practices that maintain the economic viability of producers, local cooperatives, and Land O'Lakes, Inc.

15

16 We believe that meaningful sustainability is farmer-owned and farmer driven, and supports farmers’ continued

17 use and adoption of precision agriculture and on-farm practices to increase productivity, while making efficient

18 use of natural resources to demonstrate continuous improvement. We believe in the application of science and

19 data to address environmental challenges while increasing agricultural and food system productivity.

20

21 Land O'Lakes supports market-based, measurable and practical approaches to address climate change and

22 other weather-related challenges. We support risk management tools to mitigate the challenge weather plays

23 in agricultural production. Implementation of any program to regulate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in

24 the United States must be consistent with international agreement that also commit other nations to join in

25 reducing actual aggregate emissions. Such international agreements must be binding, mandatory, verifiable,

26 and contain cuts to actual emissions on par with the United States.

27

28 Land O'Lakes supports exploring the potential opportunity that exists for agriculture to be a leading industry

29 through these approaches and to explain the market access potential to differentiate our industry through

30 sustainability

31

32 Because of our country’s high dependence on energy, we need to revitalize and conserve the nation’s energy

33 supplies and develop new, cost-effective energy sources. We support the continued development and

34 implementation of sound national and state energy policies, including robust renewable energy production.

#### 35 **Resolutions**

36 Land O'Lakes supports

- 37
- 38 • Robust conservation programs authorized in the Farm Bill that engage the private sector and promote
- 39 on-farm conservation by building capacity for farmer-cooperatives to deliver conservation expertise and
- 40 programs; and maintaining funding for working lands programs.
- 41 • Legislation and administrative programs that encourage the development and production of clean
- 42 energy options that reduce emissions of carbon and U.S. dependence on imported petroleum when
- 43 such options are provided at market prices.

- 1 • A clear, consistent and reasonable definition of what constitutes Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) under the  
2 Clean Water Act; and limiting the application of the Clean Water Act to “navigable” waters only. Final  
3 passage of legislation that removes the unnecessary chemical permitting requirements under the  
4 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program in the Clean Water Act. The permits are  
5 duplicative for pesticides applied near, over, onto or into water, where Integrated Pest Management  
6 and other Best Management Practices are already called for in the FIFRA (Federal Insecticide,  
7 Fungicide, Rodenticide Act) label.
- 8 • Legislative changes to the Endangered Species Act that allow for a more streamlined and efficient  
9 review of the potential effects of pesticides on endangered species and allow for responsible concurrent  
10 agricultural land and water use.
- 11 • Maintaining registrations for crop protection products while continuing and improving practices for  
12 pollinator health consistent with scientific findings and including industry and beekeeper coordination.
- 13 • Policies that will price energy produced on-farm at a level that will allow implementation of these  
14 alternative energy sources.
- 15 • Programs and legislation that incentivize and provide market access for renewable energy produced on  
16 farms, including solar, biodigesters and other technologies as they emerge.
- 17 • Recognizing manure as a valuable multi-use resource created by animal agriculture operations.
- 18 • Land O’Lakes supports proactive education and outreach to increase state and federal policy makers  
19 and consumers’ awareness of on farm sustainability.
- 20 • Land O’Lakes will take a leadership role with educational institutions to expand factual data regarding  
21 agriculture’s impact on climate change.
- 22 • Policies that encourage the collaboration of governments, corporations and philanthropic organizations  
23 with farmers and local communities to further the establishment and expansion of voluntary, incentive  
24 based climate smart agricultural programs.
- 25 • As state and federal governments debate and stand up climate policies we encourage policymakers to  
26 consider consistency and workability across state lines and therefore prefer federal legislation as  
27 opposed to a state by state patchwork approach to climate protocols and offset markets.

28 Land O’Lakes opposes

- 29 • Classifying manure as hazardous waste.
- 30 • Interpretations of regulations that are inconsistent with Congressional intent.
- 31 • Applying the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to manure applications to soil as  
32 nutrients.

## 33 **4. Livestock and Animal Well-being**

### 34 **Policy**

35 Animal health is of utmost importance. Land O’Lakes vehemently opposes the mistreatment of animals  
36 including those for livestock and dairy production. We support industry efforts to develop national sound animal  
37 care guidelines and to urge producers to adopt these guidelines to ensure humane treatment of animals by all  
38 segments of the livestock industry. We specifically support and encourage education of livestock handlers

1 through the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program, Beef Quality  
2 Assurance Program, Pork Quality Assurance Program Plus, and the United Egg Producers Certified program.  
3 Such programs provide transparency in order to educate the public on modern animal agriculture practices. In  
4 addition, Land O'Lakes encourages agricultural groups and producers to educate the public about modern  
5 livestock production and promote the benefits of good livestock management practices.

6  
7 Land O'Lakes encourages state agencies to develop and implement programs to stimulate the growth of  
8 livestock and dairy production. We urge community development agencies to recognize that livestock  
9 production is an important component of local economies and to promote expanded livestock production as a  
10 sound strategy for creating jobs and keeping wealth in the community.

## 11 12 13 **Resolutions**

14 Land O'Lakes supports

- 15 • Sound animal management practices, including mandatory participation and adherence to animal care  
16 standards in the FARM program for Land O'Lakes members and milk suppliers.
- 17 • Common-sense and practical state rules for regulation of livestock facilities that allow producers to  
18 safely raise livestock without additional burdensome, costly and unnecessary practices. We encourage  
19 regulatory bodies to involve Land O'Lakes members in discussions as regulations and rules are  
20 developed.
- 21 • State and federal initiatives that promote and encourage more large animal veterinarian graduates from  
22 vet schools.

23 Land O'Lakes opposes

- 24 • Legislation at all levels that will adversely impact sound animal production, handling, and processing  
25 systems.
- 26 • Proposition-based moratoriums or regulations.
- 27 • Regulations that are intended to prevent use of safe, proven practices in livestock facilities.

## 30 **5 Livestock Processing**

### 31 **Policy**

32 During market disruptions, the livestock industry requires mechanisms that stabilize the operating  
33 environment for producers, packers, and consumers of livestock. Predictability in pricing is essential for  
34 each of these stakeholders. We believe that fair and competitive markets are critical and support for  
35 producers in times of crisis is essential.

### 36 **Resolutions:**

37 Land O'Lakes supports:

- 38 • Development and implementation of policy that helps livestock producers maintain profitability;
- 39 • Flexibility for USDA to provide assistance to producers for animal health and management in times of  
40 processing disruptions;
- 41 • Efforts to expand processing capacity to help meet consumer demand and avoid supply chain  
42 bottlenecks;

- 1 • Increased health and safety protections for workers;
- 2 • Efforts to improve competition and transparency in the market that is fair to producers, packers, and
- 3 consumers.

4

## 5 **6 Animal and Plant Health Protection and Disease Control**

### 6 **Policy**

7 Timely prevention, identification, control and, where appropriate, eradication of animal and plant health  
8 diseases and pests are essential to U.S. agricultural production, food security, public health, animal welfare,  
9 and international market access.

### 10 **Resolutions**

11 Land O'Lakes supports

- 12 • Enhanced federal-state collaboration and cooperation in program delivery to facilitate timely  
13 prevention, identification, control, and where appropriate, eradication of injurious plant or  
14 animal health diseases and pests impacting U.S. agricultural production, food security,  
15 environmental and public health, and international trade.
- 16 • Adequate funding and resources needed to maintain a robust state and federal animal and plant health  
17 infrastructure necessary to facilitate early detection, surveillance, response and control activities to  
18 prevent and mitigate both domestic and foreign animal diseases.
- 19 • Recognizing the robust collaborative effort among federal, state, industry and academia in the  
20 prevention, containment and eradication, where appropriate, of domestic and foreign plant or animal  
21 diseases or pests.
- 22 • Enhanced coordination between state and federal government agencies to improve the nation's  
23 integrated plant and animal health response network through an integrated approach to prevention,  
24 preparedness, response and recovery.
- 25 • Establishing risk-based containment zones in the event of a reportable plant or animal disease or pest  
26 incident, and the expedited normalization of trade, once appropriate, to maintain commerce in  
27 unaffected zones and minimize the overall effect on producers and agricultural businesses while  
28 regional disease or pest issues are resolved.
- 29 • Collaboration between the U.S., Canada and Mexico in developing disease testing protocols based on  
30 a risk assessment of disease and pest introduction and to develop uniformity and transparency in  
31 disease and pest control programs that achieve greater harmonization of standards and facilitate fair  
32 trade among North American partners.

## 33 **7. Property Rights of Farmers**

### 34 **Policy**

35 In recognition of the critical role served by agricultural property in producing food products for an ever-  
36 increasing population, coupled with the pressure exerted against agricultural property by private development,  
37 the public taking of agricultural property should only occur in rare instances, and only when demonstrated by  
38 clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable alternative exists. In the event of a public taking of  
39 agricultural property, the calculation of just compensation to the agricultural property owner should take into

1 account the fair market value of the property and any future increased operational costs that will reasonably be  
2 incurred by the agricultural property owner as a result of the taking.

#### 3 4 **Resolutions**

5 Land O'Lakes supports

- 6 • Protecting the property rights of farmers.

7 Land O'Lakes opposes

- 8 • Any efforts by federal, state, and local governments and agencies that unduly restrict farm practices or  
9 result in a taking of farm land.
- 10 • Property tax law that creates an unfair burden on agriculture.

### 11 **8. Farm Credit**

#### 12 **Policy**

13 The agriculture industry is highly dependent on a continuing supply of competitively priced credit. The Farm  
14 Credit System is the cooperatively owned lender dedicated to meeting the needs of agriculture and rural  
15 America in good times and bad. Access to a permanent, safe and sound source of credit that is owned and  
16 controlled by our patrons is the prime motivator rather than dividends and stock appreciation that motivate  
17 potentially disinterested investors.

#### 18 19 **Resolutions**

20 Land O'Lakes supports

- 21 • Maintaining government sponsored entity (GSE) status of the Farm Credit System.
- 22 • Ensuring that the Farm Credit System remains a reliable and competitive source of credit to farmers,  
23 ranchers, agricultural cooperatives and rural infrastructure.

### 24 **9. Research**

#### 25 **Policy**

26 Land O'Lakes supports adequate funding for agriculture research programs and teaching programs. We  
27 support protecting university research data on farms involved in cooperative research projects. The extension  
28 service plays an important continuing role in delivering the results of agriculture research to farmers and  
29 agricultural producers.

#### 30 31 32 **Resolutions**

33 Land O'Lakes supports

- 34 • Funding for public agricultural research including USDA and land grant colleges and universities.
- 35 • Funding for extension programs for sharing research.

### 36 **10. Water Availability**



1 **Policy**

2 Given that clean water is critical to plant, animal, and human health, Land O'Lakes supports policy that  
3 provides security to food and agriculture production by encouraging beneficial water use. When faced with  
4 making supplies of water available, policymakers should defer to applicable legal principles, such as previous  
5 rights and sound science when evaluating beneficial use of water for agriculture purposes.  
6

7 **Resolutions**

8 Land O'Lakes supports

- 9 • Transitional water pumping from the delta for use for crops in the California central valley.
- 10
- 11 • A balanced approach between environmental and agricultural priorities in federal biological opinion  
12 determinations such that ag has ample water supplies to grow crops, raise livestock and continue  
13 feeding the world.
- 14
- 15 • Federal, state, and local actions to help farmers cope with drought conditions that impact agricultural  
16 productivity.
- 17 • Long term investment into storage and water infrastructure to mitigate future droughts.
- 18 • The development of water security in all areas for the viability of our producers, facilities, and  
19 communities.

20 **11. Transportation**

21 **Policy**

22 The effective marketing of agricultural products requires an efficient, modern transportation system. Private  
23 and government efforts should facilitate the efficient and economical movement of farm supplies, commodities,  
24 and food products on our waterways, highways, railways, airways, pipelines, and the open seas.

25  
26 Effective transportation of agricultural goods requires reasonable rail shipping practices and rates; uniform  
27 interstate highway weight tolerances; and availability of licensed commercial drivers including those able to  
28 haul hazardous materials.

29  
30 **Resolutions**

31 Land O'Lakes supports

- 32 • Funding for waterway infrastructure modernization projects authorized by the Water Resources  
33 Development Act.
- 34 • Keeping the hours of service agriculture exemption at 150 air mile radius.
- 35 • Policies that would optimize truck weight restrictions across the Interstate Highway System and other  
36 like roads.
- 37 • The allowance of agricultural employees with standard drivers' licenses to qualify for higher weight  
38 limits when transporting livestock or products relative to the farming operation.
- 39 • Considering the unique needs of livestock haulers when establishing any trucking rules such as  
40 requirements for Electronic Logging Devices (ELD).

- State and federal programs that address truck driver shortages through recruitment and training, technological advancements and additional efforts.

## 12. Rural Development

### Policy

Land O'Lakes is committed to supporting programs that promote a strong rural economy. We favor development of programs that promote economic diversity in rural communities, create new jobs, preserve and modernize the rural infrastructure (including transportation systems, power, communication infrastructure, and waste disposal), and establish human services, (including education, health care, child care, and social services). We recommend using the cooperative model as a way to effectively and efficiently implement rural development programs.

We believe in expanding health care options for our member producers and cooperatives, individual farmers, their employees and families. We continue to work to help our members obtain affordable, comprehensive health care.

A challenging farm economy can bring uncertainty and stress for everyone involved. Land O'Lakes believes in leveraging our cooperative structure to provide services like mental health assistance to our members. The Member Assistance Program provided by Land O'Lakes, Inc. offers resources to assist our members dealing with difficult circumstances.

### Resolutions

Land O'Lakes supports

- Funding for rural development programs.
- Vibrant K-12 public schools including access to quality agricultural education.
- Affordable, comprehensive health insurance options for our member-owners and those who work and support the Land O'Lakes Cooperative.
- State laws and regulations, including Associated Health Plan (AHP) regulations, that allow the pooling of self-employed individuals and provide more flexibility to offer affordable health insurance coverage to those involved in agriculture, in the absence of federal laws or rules permitting these plans.
- Funding and coordination by federal and state governments, as well as industry partners, to establish mental health and other stress assistance programs for farmers and ranchers dealing with difficult circumstances.

## 13. Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

### Policy

Keeping rural communities and farms vibrant is vital to the future of agriculture, which includes involving the next generation of farmers and ranchers. There are several challenges that new and beginning farmers and ranchers face, as well as transitioning farm operations between generations.

### Resolutions

Land O'Lakes supports

- 1 • Improving access to credit, tax benefits and other tools to address financial obstacles for new farmers  
2 and ranchers.
- 3 • State and federal programs that assist family farms in transitioning farm operations.
- 4 • Efforts to ensure that farmland remains available, accessible, and affordable to farmers.

## 5 **14. Milk Pricing, Dairy Product Pricing and Marketing**

### 6 **Policy**

7 Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMO) should be examined thoroughly and revised as needed to effectively  
8 meet the needs of producers in various regions of the country. The orders should recognize the critical role that  
9 cooperatives play in balancing supply and demand. There should be an emphasis on full consideration and  
10 analysis of alternatives to the make allowance structure that would result in a more effective price discovery  
11 mechanism. We specifically support implementation of daily electronic reporting of dairy product prices as a  
12 way to provide producers with reliable information for risk management to include cold storage auditing.  
13 The recommendations should not disadvantage milk producers as compared to the current federal orders.  
14

15 Land O'Lakes supports effective implementation and operation of the California Federal Milk Marketing Order.  
16 We support the state milk marketing boards, such as the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, the North Dakota  
17 Milk Stabilization Board, and the Virginia Milk Commission. Land O'Lakes supports reform of the Pennsylvania  
18 Milk Marketing Board to promote transparency and accountability in distribution of revenues pooled.  
19

20 Land O'Lakes supports national adoption of natural standards for fluid milk. The current federal standard of  
21 8.25% for the solids-not-fat content of fluid milk products is well below the national solids-not-fat content of milk  
22 as it originates on the farm. In order to maintain the integrity and nutritional quality of milk used in fluid milk  
23 products, and to provide increased uniformity of products offered to consumers, it is important that federal  
24 solids-not-fat standards for fluid milk products be increased. We support the adoption of a fortification  
25 allowance within the federal milk marketing orders in order to share the cost of adding solids to fluid milk  
26 products. We urge increased efforts to monitor compliance with fluid milk standards, especially milk for the  
27 school milk program, and its nutritional value, and to enforce the standards when processors attempt to market  
28 products that do not meet the requirements.  
29

30 Land O'Lakes is very concerned about marketing claims and labeling that creates a false or misleading  
31 perception of the alleged difference between conventional milk, organic milk, and rbST-free milk. All milk has  
32 naturally occurring levels of bovine somatotropin, and there is no difference between the milk from cows  
33 supplemented with rbST and those that are not, nor does organic provide a proven health benefit.  
34

### 35 **Resolutions**

36 Land O'Lakes supports

- 37 • National adoption of the natural standards for fluid milk.
- 38 • Substantive changes to the California Quota System must be approved by producer referendum.
- 39 • Review, revisions, and adjustments to Federal Milk Marketing Orders and their impact on producers,  
40 processors, and the economics of the dairy industry.

41 Land O'Lakes opposes

- Changes to current milk pricing systems that would harm producers.

## 15. Labor and Immigration

### Policy

Land O'Lakes believes that it is the federal government's job to secure our borders and provide a legal means for eligible workers to enter the US. We support legislation that provides workable labor options for all sections of agriculture, including seasonal and year-round employment. Such reforms should include both a means to access a sustained legal workforce and status adjustments for certain current experienced unauthorized agricultural workers. We also believe that it's the responsibility of the federal government to verify the legal status of workers.

Land O'Lakes endorses a strong emphasis on educational and occupational safety programs directed toward making farms and cooperatives safer places to work and live. We understand the role of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in regulating and inspecting agricultural operations and support education and voluntary adoption of practices and safeguards to prevent farm accidents as a top priority. We support policies allowing young people of any age to work in any job on a family-owned or operated farm, regardless of the farm's legal structure.

### Resolutions

Land O'Lakes supports

- Immigration reform that would provide legal access to an expanded agricultural workforce including options for year-round employment and considerations for experienced workers.
- Industry led initiatives to address labor practices and training
- Labor policies that promote safety on agricultural operations and allow young people to work on family farm operations, regardless of their legal structure.

Land O'Lakes opposes

- Legislation that would mandate use of eVerify without also including options that provide an expanded legal workforce.
- Use of the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) and other wage proposals that are not market-driven and predictable for producers and agriculture businesses.

## 16. Biotechnology

### Policy

Land O'Lakes believes science offers great potential for improving agricultural production efficiency and a sustainable environment. New technologies using gene-editing in the plant's own genome show significant promise for biotech crops.

We support proper segregation of products that are not approved for export or for other specific uses, in order to ensure proper channeling of products that are approved for those purposes. The current "zero-tolerance" import standards for the EU and other importing countries including China for biotechnology products approved in the U.S. but not in certain international markets are unrealistic. Therefore, we urge the establishment of tolerances for these U.S. approved genetically enhanced products in these international markets that may be stringent, but achievable.

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**Resolutions**

Land O'Lakes supports

- Improved regulatory coordination between federal agencies and international regulators to promote consistency with a unified regulatory policy on biotechnology and minimize unnecessary barriers to trade related to the regulatory oversight of biotechnology products in agriculture.
- Regulatory efforts at USDA that provide a framework for investments, planning, and better certainty of biotechnology development and research.
- Establishment of clear protocols and procedures for a coordinated coexistence strategy between biotech crops and their non-biotech counterparts including tolerance levels for exports.
- USDA’s buffer zone guidelines mandated for the testing and growing of biotech crops to avoid cross-pollination.
- The use of new “advanced breeding” techniques, such as gene editing, by public and private plant breeders in order to create changes in crop species that are indistinguishable from traditional breeding methods.

Land O'Lakes opposes

- Local bans on growing and cultivating approved biotech crops.
- Delays in global approvals of new and proven biotechnology products that threaten their adoption both at home and abroad, which is a roadblock to farmers’ efforts to sustainably increase production.

**17. Food Labeling**

**Policy**

The USDA and the Food and Drug Administration should maintain their roles as the national authorities on food labeling requirements. Food systems are nationwide or worldwide. Labeling requirements for individual states are confusing and costly. We support the FDA’s stance that mandatory labeling should be reserved for information that deals with the health, safety, or nutrition of a product and should aid in consumer understanding. We support the development of voluntary, non-misleading label claims through the FDA and other federal government agencies to allow food companies to cater to specific consumer desires. Federal standards of identity are established to promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers. In addition, dairy products standards contain provisions regarding both permitted and prohibited ingredients, as well as proper manufacturing procedures to protect product integrity. Land O'Lakes supports protecting the integrity of dairy products through federal standards of identity; enforcement action that ensures imported dairy foods meet the same compositional requirements as domestically-produced standardized dairy foods; and a federal standard of identity for fluid milk that includes nonfat solids minimums equivalent to, not less than, the national average of nonfat solids contained in producer milk.

**Resolutions**

Land O'Lakes supports

- Effective implementation and operation of bioengineered ingredient disclosure rules consistent with industry capabilities and Congressional intent.
- Maintaining and enforcing standards of identity for dairy products.

1 Land O'Lakes opposes

- 2 • Local, state, or federal actions that would mandate a label on products containing biotech-derived  
3 ingredients.
- 4 • Classification of cell-cultured technology being identified as a meat, dairy and/or poultry product. Any  
5 identification should not confuse consumers as to the origin of the product.
- 6 • Classification of products derived from milk proteins, or any method other than from a mammal, using  
7 dairy standard names.

## 8 **18. Food Safety**

### 9 **Policy**

10  
11 All milk is tested for antibiotic residues in accordance with the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO), and  
12 any milk that does not meet the standards of the PMO is rejected from the market. Hence, all marketed milk is  
13 “antibiotic free.” We urge vigorous scrutiny by FDA and state agencies on marketing claims for specialty milk  
14 and vigorous enforcement against false and misleading claims.

15  
16 Due to the significant health risk associated with the consumption of raw (unpasteurized) milk, Land O'Lakes  
17 does not permit members to sell raw milk and opposes laws and regulations that would allow or expand  
18 consumer access to unpasteurized milk. We support mandatory milk quality inspection standards and raw milk  
19 label disclosure warnings in states that allow limited sales of unpasteurized milk to consumers.

20  
21 Land O'Lakes is committed to working with federal and state agencies to establish a clear direction for food  
22 plants and farms to assure the safety of our food system. We're also committed to working with agricultural  
23 producers to improve on-farm bio-security measures. We support reasonable, science-based regulations on  
24 feed mills to help prevent the introduction of BSE into U.S. cattle, or introduction of any other feed-borne  
25 animal disease or health hazard.

26  
27 As different government agencies develop programs and regulations for food safety and biosecurity, we urge  
28 coordination of efforts. We urge special attention be paid to avoid duplicate levels of regulatory authority,  
29 regulatory inspections and procedures. We support the adoption of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points  
30 (HACCP) procedures in food production plants as a proven, effective method of assuring food safety. We urge  
31 consideration of using the principles of HACCP as the foundation for assuring the safety of feed for animals.

32  
33 Land O'Lakes supported passage of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in 2010. This legislation  
34 provides FDA with the resources and authorities the agency needs to help strengthen our nation's food safety  
35 system by making prevention the focus of our food safety strategies.

### 36 **Resolutions**

37 Land O'Lakes supports

- 38 • Implementing FSMA through rulemaking that enhances public health and safety by requiring all food  
39 companies to develop a food safety plan; adopting a risk-based approach to inspection; improving the  
40 safety of imported food and food ingredients as well as making foreign suppliers meet these stringent  
41 standards.

42  
43 Land O'Lakes opposes

- Any measures that would allow or expand the sale of raw milk for human consumption.

## **19. Promotion of Agricultural Products**

### **Policy**

Land O'Lakes continues to support promotion and market research programs conducted by state and national promotion boards and industry groups. These programs are a valuable support strategy to Land O'Lakes' own advertising, market research, and promotion. In addition, we favor programs to promote increased exports of dairy and other agricultural products.

The members of Land O'Lakes urge all segments of the food industry to work together on consumer education to properly convey that our U.S. food supply is extremely safe, and to help consumers understand that modern crop and livestock production practices are safe, humane, and environmentally sound. We also support the reputation management initiatives that are being conducted by the milk promotion agencies. We urge producers to actively participate in reputation management programs and urge other commodity organizations to implement similar programs.

Land O'Lakes supports effective producer funded and administered programs that enhance farmer's viability. We encourage 100% participation by each commodity affected. We also believe any such programs need to have a minimum participation threshold of two-thirds of the total industry production of any commodity program being covered by said programs. This is to minimize non-participants from benefiting from any such program without contributing to the financial funding required to cover operating costs associated with any such program.

### **Resolutions**

Land O'Lakes supports

- Producer-funded and administered programs to promote research and marketing for commodities.

## **20. International Development**

### **Policy**

Land O'Lakes believes that international development must be a priority for U.S. foreign assistance as America's economic growth is strongly linked to global prosperity, including emerging markets. We are particularly supportive of market-driven agricultural and food systems development efforts that generate economic growth, alleviate poverty, enhance food security and improve health and nutrition around the world.

We support a balanced approach to funding that promotes agricultural market development and provides economic growth opportunities for farmers, input and service providers, processors, and small and growing businesses, while remaining sufficiently nimble to address natural and manmade emergencies that arise. We support the increased use and promotion of public-private partnerships, especially with cooperatives and U.S. agribusinesses, to increase the resource mobilization and the efficiency, impact and sustainability of U.S. foreign assistance. We strive for better coordination among U.S. government and multilateral donor institutions including USAID, the State Department, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), USDA, and multilateral financial institutions.

### **Resolutions**

Land O'Lakes supports

- 1 • The important and meaningful work of Venture37, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is affiliated  
2 with Land O'Lakes, Inc.
- 3 • Robust funding for the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, and the International  
4 Affairs budget through USAID and the Department of State.
- 5 • The permanent authorization of the "Feed the Future" Initiative through the Global Food Security Act,  
6 and the requisite resources to ensure agricultural development remains a priority of U.S. Government-  
7 funded foreign assistance.
- 8 • Maintaining robust U.S. Government commitment to development assistance programs supported  
9 through the 150 account and the Farm Bill-supported USAID Food for Peace, USAID Farmer to Farmer  
10 and USDA Food for Progress programs, which respectively help eliminate hunger, prevent famines and  
11 reduce food insecurity among the world's poorest and most vulnerable people in low income food deficit  
12 countries; leverage the invaluable support of American volunteer experts overseas to support food  
13 security; and build robust market-driven agricultural value chains in development countries
- 14 • Ongoing robust support for the USAID-administered Cooperative Development Program, which builds  
15 cooperatives and their networks in a way that enables smallholder farmers to leverage economies of  
16 scale (including access to ag inputs and services), strengthens markets and the business enabling  
17 environment, and maximizes the role that cooperatives play in providing women with access to formal  
18 financial systems.
- 19 • Continuing the authorization and increased funding for the USDA Local and Regional Procurement  
20 (LRP) development program as a means of building local capacity and resiliency, strengthening local  
21 food chains and increasing the efficiency of U.S. Government food aid resources. LRP should not be  
22 exclusively tied to McGovern-Dole Food for Education funding and should be used in instances where it  
23 is more effective and efficient than monetized commodities. The use of cash vouchers for local  
24 purchase should also be considered to support food aid over imported, monetized commodities.
- 25 • Providing food aid when circumstances require, whether through Local and Regional Procurement  
26 programs, or monetization mechanisms that do not offset local markets.
- 27 • Government-led development assistance that recognizes the critical role that women and youth play in  
28 agriculture globally and that allocates funds to further empower women in agriculture.

## 29 **21. Trade**

### 30 **Policy**

31 Land O'Lakes believes it's the obligation of the U.S. government to be a vigorous advocate for U.S. farmers  
32 and agribusiness. Developing strategies for new trade agreements that will expand market access for U.S.  
33 agriculture products is critical to supporting U.S. farmers and providing for a reliable food system throughout  
34 the world.

35  
36 We support continued U.S. membership in the World Trade Organization and moving forward on the WTO  
37 framework by eliminating export subsidies, reducing trade-distorting agricultural support programs, and  
38 opening new, profitable markets for U.S. food and agricultural exports by ensuring that countries with the  
39 highest import protections make the largest strides toward allowing greater access.

40  
41 We urge negotiators to establish international trade agreements that increase agricultural product exports and  
42 do not adversely affect the overall market for American agricultural products or hinder the ability to provide an  
43 effective safety net for producers; minimize any disruptive impacts that additional dairy product and dairy



1 animal imports could have on producers, consumers and the domestic market; aggressively implement trade  
2 rules in ways that benefit U.S. producers and food companies, and pursue remedies against nations that don't  
3 comply with international trade agreements.

4  
5 We support Trade Promotion Authority, especially when coupled with judiciously implemented Trade  
6 Adjustment Assistance, as an important tenant of U.S. trade policy.

7  
8 We urge vigorous enforcement of health and sanitary standards. These standards must ensure that imports of  
9 livestock and food products into the United States conform to the standards of domestic products. We support  
10 using bilateral and multilateral trade talks to remove barriers to dairy product trade for existing markets and to  
11 allow expansion into new markets.

12 We are concerned about the monopolistic industry structure in New Zealand and steps taken by its  
13 government that have permitted one company to dominate domestic and international dairy markets.

14  
15 We support the work of the Consortium for Common Food Names to combat the abuse of Geographic  
16 Indicators in food sales. We strongly oppose any agreement that would restrict the general use of generic food  
17 names.

18  
19 Land O'Lakes supports imposing a tariff rate quota on imports of Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC) and blended  
20 products that circumvent quotas and tariffs. Land O'Lakes urges the U.S. government to exercise our World  
21 Trade Organization (WTO) right to implement temporary increases in tariffs when imports of dairy products  
22 exceed safeguard levels established by existing trade agreements. We urge USDA to rigorously monitor dairy  
23 product import levels and to fully use allowable safeguard provisions when imports reach the designated  
24 excessive levels. We urge Congress to provide oversight to enforce the implementation of dairy import trigger  
25 levels.

26  
27 While Land O'Lakes appreciates efforts to provide assistance to producers in response to the negative impacts  
28 that retaliatory tariffs have had on the farm economy, we prioritize long-term policies that increase market  
29 access for U.S. agricultural products.

## 30 31 **Resolutions**

32 Land O'Lakes supports

- 33 • Ratification of new trade agreements if they support U.S. agriculture and dairy exports.
- 34 • Voluntary, farmer-funded programs that increase international sales of dairy products.
- 35 • Maintaining or improving existing trade agreements.
- 36 • Utilizing the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program to  
37 help develop permanent commercial markets.

38 Land O'Lakes opposes

- 39 • Restrictive use of geographic indicators that impact generic food names.
- 40 • Trade policies that would result in retaliatory tariffs from trading partners.
- 41 • Withdrawing from or weakening trade agreements that are beneficial for agriculture.

## 22. Taxes

### Policy

The members of Land O'Lakes urge Congress to allow equity to remain in agricultural operations and oppose the federal inheritance tax. We support corporate tax provisions that help our business, member producers and member cooperatives grow.

### Resolutions

Land O'Lakes supports

- Tax policy that recognizes the unique relationship between agricultural cooperatives and their farmer owners but does not create an unintended imbalance in the marketplace.
- Maintaining Federal Section 199A and working to make permanent to ensure no tax increase for farmer cooperatives or their members and encouraging state conformity with federal law.
- The current \$11.2 million estate and gift tax exemption and work to make it permanent for the future elimination of the estate tax for ongoing family-owned enterprises while maintaining stepped up basis for inherited estates. We oppose the offset or elimination of estate tax in exchange for carry-over basis.
- Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification to create uniform rules for taxing earnings from non-residents.
- The choice of cash-based accounting for agriculture.

## 23. Workplace

### Policy

Land O'Lakes will actively participate in consideration of retirement and other workforce-related pieces of legislation. Our goal is to achieve policies and regulations that allow our company, the cooperative system, and farmer members to grow and provide the most value for our members, customers and employees.

### Resolutions

Land O'Lakes supports

- Workable measures by the federal government, employers and retirees to make collectively-bargained, multi-employer pension plans solvent in the long term.
- Limiting the annual possible premium rate increase for cooperatives participating in multiple employer pension plans.

## 24. Political Activity

### Policy

Land O'Lakes is committed to legislative action to support the economic interests of the farmer-owners of the cooperative system. In pursuing these legislative goals, we urge the members of Land O'Lakes to actively participate in grassroots programs that support effective, cooperative efforts. We continually work to form positive relationships with policymakers at every level of government. We also have an established Political Action Committee – the Land O'Lakes, Inc., PAC.

### Resolutions

1 Land O'Lakes supports

- 2 • Member and employee efforts to educate and build relationships with elected and appointed  
3 government officials.

## 4 **25. Hunger Relief and Food Security**

### 5 **Policy**

6 The U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic & Research Service (ERS) defines, measures, and tracks food  
7 security in the United States. Food security means access by all people at all times to enough food for an  
8 active, healthy life.

9 Land O'Lakes believes that in a nation that possesses such abundant resources and productive agricultural  
10 producers, food insecurity is a solvable problem. As a company, Land O'Lakes is a leader in food donations for  
11 hunger relief and supports organizations such as Feeding America that are dedicated to ending hunger.

### 12 **Resolutions**

13 Land O'Lakes supports

- 14 • Research-based and transparent processes for establishing any government nutrition standards
- 15 • Updating the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans based on sound health and nutrition scientific  
16 research.
- 17 • Policies and programs that encourage and facilitate food donations and support the efficient operation  
18 of food banks and food pantries as a source of emergency food assistance to individuals and families in  
19 need.
- 20 • Maintaining efficient implementation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as  
21 America's primary food security safety net.  
22  
23
- 24 • Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act and effective implementation of the National School Lunch  
25 and School Breakfast Programs in order to serve healthy meals with nutritious dairy products including  
26 cheese, unflavored, and flavored milk, and other American-produced foods.  
27
- 28 • Continued funding of the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC) which provides federal grants to  
29 states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income mothers and  
30 to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.  
31
- 32 • Authorization of state and federal legislation modernize and strengthen school lunch programs to  
33 expand access to school nutrition programs that enable students to have a nutritious diet and stay  
34 healthy and focused in the classroom.  
35
- 36 • Legislation and initiatives aimed at reducing the root causes of hunger and the impact of food deserts in  
37 rural America.  
38

## 26. Internet Connectivity

### Policy

18 million Americans lack access to high speed internet. 14 million of those reside in rural America. Without access, individuals and businesses cannot use digital tools for basic tasks many take for granted – checking bank statements, reading news, increasing business productivity, marketing to consumers, attending school online, completing homework assignments, and conducting telemedicine appointments. At Land O’Lakes, we believe that reliably connecting to the digital world can address critical social and economic issues facing rural America and those areas without access; including access to:

**HEALTHCARE:** Telemedicine and telepharmacy cannot deliver reliable, more affordable treatment without connectivity. Since 2013, more than 100 rural hospitals have closed, and we have a shortage of 40,000 doctors. 45% of rural communities no longer have maternity wards. Access to high speed internet can improve access and reduce travel time patients spend driving long distances to get basic medical care. Telehealth use has risen exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic and residents of rural America are increasingly relying on access to these remote services.

**EDUCATION:** Distance learning can help address the fact that urban Americans are more likely to hold a bachelors degree than their rural counterparts and provide better opportunities for rural schools to use modern learning tools to enhance education outcomes for students. With more schools moving to online platforms during COVID-19, it is essential that high-speed internet is available to all Americans so that students in rural locations do not fall further behind their urban and suburban counterparts.

**AG TECH/SUSTAINABILITY:** Modern Agriculture relies heavily on cutting edge ag tech and precision farming tools to boost production and improve on farm sustainability, yet the lack of high-speed internet connectivity limits their adoption.

### RESOLUTIONS:

#### Land O’Lakes supports

- Robust state and federal funding to address infrastructure needs to expand internet connectivity in rural America.
- Access to improved connectivity maps and delivery speeds, reforms to funding programs and enhanced coordination among state and federal agencies to streamline build out and execution of funding.
- Elevating the White House Chief Technology Officer’s role to lead interagency coordination that achieves robust connectivity outcomes and streamlines the execution of funding.
- Opportunities to develop public private partnerships to develop business applications to address the problem more efficiently and cost effectively.

## 27 In Memory

### Policy

In appreciation for their service to cooperatives and humanity, we pause in silent tribute to those cooperative leaders, members, employees, and friends who passed away during the year.