

LaSalle County Farm Bureau 2009 Local Government Policies

Mission Statement

Representing agriculture and our member families through information and legislation to improve financial stability and quality of life.

Biofuel

As the demand for energy increases, we believe agriculture can play a vital role in meeting that demand through the production of ethanol among other agriculture-related sources. We support efforts to increase the production of ethanol and other biofuels in Illinois including LaSalle County. In addition to using ethanol-blended fuels along with soy-biodiesel we also encourage the purchase of flex-fuel vehicles by local government entities.

Drainage

LaSalle County is a top tier crop production area in the state of Illinois and the nation. One of the keys to keeping our soils well suited for agriculture is drainage. In fact, most of the land in this area was drained so that the crop production could occur.

We support efforts to protect drainage tile during construction projects in the county so that neighboring landowners who depend on drainage for their land continue to enjoy its benefits. We encourage the County to work with all drainage districts when considering any stormwater proposals that impact drainage within these districts. We encourage rural developers to be aware of the importance of existing drainage systems.

Planning and Zoning

We support the basic concept of LaSalle County wide zoning and Comprehensive Plan. We support the representation of the majority of the Zoning Board of Appeals consisting of individuals who are engaged in production agriculture.

Property Taxes

Property taxes create an unfair in-balance in our tax structure and penalize those individuals who have invested in land and building. **We urge LaSalle County taxing bodies to thoroughly analyze all potential revenue sources prior to voting on any proposed property tax increase.**

Wind Energy

Recent changes in state laws require that more of our energy in Illinois come from wind. Wind energy is another example of how agriculture can provide and help meet the energy needs of the state and nation as a whole. **We support efforts to develop wind energy projects in LaSalle County, which achieve neighborhood consensus, while protecting private property rights.**

Open Spaces

While not being opposed to opens spaces and Forest Preserves the LaSalle County Farm Bureau is opposed to the taking of property by eminent domain and the creation of an additional taxing body.

Farmland Preservation

North Central Illinois has one of the richest agricultural soils in the world and it is very well suited for agriculture production. As growth continues in LaSalle County, the LaSalle County Farm Bureau has an interest in preserving farmland and the economic, social and political contexts that foster the enterprise of farming. In pursuit of that interest we support compact and contiguous development with an emphasis on infill redevelopment.

Livestock

LaSalle County Farm Bureau recognizes the importance of livestock production in LaSalle County. More specifically we support more livestock on independent family farms in LaSalle County, thereby increasing jobs, local grain consumption and ultimately the tax base of LaSalle County.