



# 2018 POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

This document was drafted by the 2017 Policies and Resolutions Committee and approved by voting delegates at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Please contact your Policies and Resolutions Committee representative or email [governmentrelations@landolakes.com](mailto:governmentrelations@landolakes.com) with any proposed revisions for 2018.

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, as a means to improve cooperative effectiveness. Cooperatives should provide  
14 continuous professional improvement to cooperative management staff and collaborate with similar programs  
15 provided by colleges and business schools.  
16

17 **Resolutions**

18 Land O'Lakes supports

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

25 Land O'Lakes opposes

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

30 **2. Farm Safety Net**

31 **Policy**

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

1 **Resolutions**

2 Land O'Lakes supports

- 3 • Maintaining balanced farm policy through the Farm Bill.
- 4 • Effective commodity programs with reasonable program eligibility requirements.
- 5 • Insurance programs to manage risk exposure.
- 6 • Changes to the Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers that would allow producers to better
- 7 manage risk in their businesses.
- 8 • The Secretary of Agriculture's use of his/her authority to purchase dairy products for feeding programs
- 9 in times of low production margins as prescribed under the Dairy Product Donation Program.

10 Land O'Lakes opposes

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

13 **3. Sustainability**

14 **Policy**

15 Land O'Lakes believes that meaningful sustainability is farmer-owned and farmer driven. We are committed

16 to farmer-first conservation and precision agriculture that will help feed a growing population and minimize

17 impact on the environment, supporting the productivity of farmland for current and future generations. Land

18 O'Lakes, through Land O'Lakes SUSTAIN, all of our businesses, and our member-owners, is uniquely positioned

19 to be a convening force for sustainability that closes the distance between farmers and the rest of the food

20 supply chain.

21 We believe in the application of sound science to address environmental challenges while increasing

22 agricultural and food system productivity. Land O'Lakes supports the right of producers to choose and use

23 safe, scientifically proven technology.

24

25 Sustainability Guiding Principles:

26 Improving the social, environmental and economic impact of our businesses by:

- 27 • Strengthening communities here and around the world
- 28 • Supporting initiatives that improve the well-being of our employees
- 29 • Enhancing market access and profitability for our member-owners
- 30 • Being a valued business partner to customers
- 31 • Making efficient use of natural resources; continuously improving our environmental footprint
- 32 • Championing what farmers are already doing in terms of on-farm conservation, while supporting them
- 33 to measure, expand and connect this work to the broader industry

- Promoting responsible animal care
- Using technologies, insights and production practices to increase agricultural productivity

### Climate and Environment

Land O'Lakes is committed to representing the interests of the food and agriculture industry, the cooperative system, and our farmer-members in discussions on climate and weather. We support risk management tools to mitigate the challenge weather plays in agricultural production. Implementation of any program to regulate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States must be consistent with international agreements that also commit other nations to join in reducing actual aggregate emissions. Such international agreements must be binding, mandatory, verifiable, and contain cuts to actual emissions on par with the United States.

### Air Quality

Land O'Lakes is committed to protecting the air and environment through responsible corporate and business practices that maintain the economic viability of producers, local cooperatives and Land O'Lakes, Inc. We oppose any barriers to farmers' use of approved technologies and support uniform, national, science-based regulations for the review and approval of new agricultural production technologies.

### Energy

Because of our country's high dependence on energy, we need to revitalize and conserve the nation's energy supplies and develop new, cost-effective energy sources. We urge Congress and the Administration to continue the development and implementation of sound national energy policies, including recognition of a role for renewable fuels.

Policy makers should provide broad protection for the entire nation during periods of energy shortages. They should especially ensure adequate energy supplies at reasonable costs to farmers, their cooperatively owned refineries, and agricultural processors. As the state and federal governments move forward with rules to permit retail competition for electric energy, we urge them to assure that farmers and rural residents are not placed at a competitive disadvantage at their farm businesses and rural homes.

### **Resolutions**

Land O'Lakes supports

- A robust Farm Bill Conservation title that engages the private sector and promotes on-farm conservation by building capacity for farmer-cooperatives to deliver conservation expertise and programs; and maintaining funding for working lands programs.
- Legislation and administrative programs that encourage the development and production of clean energy options that reduce emissions of carbon and U.S. dependence on imported petroleum when such options are provided at market prices.
- The Clean Water Act as it is currently interpreted as applicable to "navigable" waters only.
- Final passage of legislation that removes the unnecessary chemical permitting requirements under the National Pollutant Emissions Discharge System in the Clean Water Act. The permits are duplicative for pesticides applied near, over, onto or into water, where Integrated Pest Management and other Best Management Practices are already called for in the FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act) label.

- 1 • Legislative changes to the Endangered Species Act that allow for a more streamlined and efficient  
2 review of the potential effects of pesticides on endangered species and allow for responsible concurrent  
3 agricultural land and water use.
- 4 • Maintaining registrations for crop protection products while continuing and improving practices for  
5 pollinator health consistent with scientific findings and including industry and beekeeper coordination.
- 6 • Increased research and rapid implementation of next generation biofuels.
- 7 • Policies that will price energy produced on-farm at a level that will allow implementation of these  
8 alternative energy sources.
- 9 • Programs and legislation that incentivize biodigester use on dairy farms.
- 10 • Recognize hydroelectric power as a renewable energy source.
- 11 • Classifying manure as a plant nutrient.
- 12 • Authority for state and local conservation offices to address urgent matters so that they may be dealt  
13 with promptly.

#### 14 Land O'Lakes opposes

- 15 • Classifying manure as hazardous waste.
- 16 • Interpretations of regulations that are inconsistent with Congressional intent.
- 17 • Applying the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to manure applications.

## 18 **4. Animal Health and Well-being**

### 19 **Policy**

20 Animal health is of utmost importance. Land O'Lakes vehemently opposes the mistreatment of animals  
21 including those for livestock and dairy production. We support industry efforts to develop national sound  
22 animal care guidelines and to urge producers to adopt these guidelines to ensure humane treatment of animals  
23 by all segments of the livestock industry. We specifically support and encourage education of livestock  
24 handlers through the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program, Beef  
25 Quality Assurance Program, Pork Quality Assurance Program Plus, and the United Egg Producers Certified  
26 program. Such programs provide transparency in order to educate the public on modern animal agriculture  
27 practices. In addition, Land O'Lakes encourages agricultural groups and producers to educate the public about  
28 modern livestock production and promote the benefits of good livestock management practices.

29  
30 Land O'Lakes supports efforts to develop new diagnostics and a coordinated prevention program that would  
31 support an emergency response plan to prevent any outbreaks of infectious animal diseases. We urge  
32 government officials to continue to enforce strict safeguards to prevent the introduction of infectious animal  
33 diseases in the United States, and support international cooperation to prevent the spread of the disease.

### 34 **Resolutions**

35 Land O'Lakes supports  
36

- Sound animal management practices, including mandatory participation and adherence to animal care standards in the FARM program for Land O'Lakes members and milk suppliers.
- State and federal initiatives that promote and encourage more large animal veterinarian graduates from vet schools.
- Establishing a program for the eradication of infectious diseases from U.S. livestock herds and flocks, including provisions for indemnification of producers who have livestock that are destroyed under the program.

Land O'Lakes opposes

- Legislation at all levels that will adversely impact sound animal production, handling, and processing systems.

## 5. Property Rights of Farmers

### Policy

In recognition of the critical role served by agricultural property in producing food products for an ever-increasing population, coupled with the pressure exerted against agricultural property by private development, the public taking of agricultural property should only occur in rare instances, and only when demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable alternative exists. In the event of a public taking of agricultural property, the calculation of just compensation to the agricultural property owner should take into account the fair market value of the property and any future increased operational costs that will reasonably be incurred by the agricultural property owner as a result of the taking.

### Resolutions

Land O'Lakes supports

- Protecting the property rights of farmers.

Land O'Lakes opposes

- Any efforts by federal, state, and local governments and agencies that unduly restrict farm practices or result in a taking of farm land.

## 6. Farm Credit

### Policy

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

### Resolutions

1 Land O'Lakes supports

- 2 • Maintaining government sponsored entity (GSE) status of the Farm Credit System.

## 3 **7. Research**

### 4 **Policy**

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

### 11 **Resolutions**

12 Land O'Lakes supports

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

## 15 **8. Water Availability**

### 16 **Policy**

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

### 22 **Resolutions**

23 Land O'Lakes supports

- 24 • Federal, state, and local actions to help farmers cope with the current drought in the western US.
- 25 • Long term investment into storage and water infrastructure to mitigate future droughts.
- 26 • The development of water security in all areas for the viability of our producers, facilities, and  
27 communities.

## 28 **9. Transportation**

### 29 **Policy**

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

33  
34 Effective transportation of agricultural goods requires reasonable rail shipping practices and rates; uniform  
35 interstate highway weight tolerances; and availability of licensed commercial drivers including those able to  
36 haul hazardous materials.

37

1 **Resolutions**

2 Land O'Lakes supports

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

12  
13 **10. Rural Development**

14 **Policy**

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

21  
22 Land O'Lakes supports development and implementation of programs that encourage and support the  
23 establishment of new producers and ranchers. We encourage state agencies to develop and implement  
24 programs to stimulate the growth of livestock and dairy production. We urge community development agencies  
25 to recognize that livestock production is an important component of local economies and to promote expanded  
26 livestock production as a sound strategy for creating jobs and keeping wealth in the community.

27  
28 **Resolutions**

29 Land O'Lakes supports

- 30 • Funding for rural development programs.
- 31 • Expansion of adequate broadband access to all areas.
- 32 • Funding for beginning farmer and rancher programs.
- 33 • Uniform state rules for regulation of livestock facilities.
- 34 • Vibrant K-12 public schools including access to quality agricultural education.

35 Land O'Lakes opposes

- Regulations that are not based on sound, scientifically substantiated evidence.
- Moratoriums and regulations that are intended to prevent modernization of livestock facilities.

## 11. Milk Pricing, Dairy Product Pricing and Marketing

### Policy

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

Land O'Lakes supports effective operation of the California milk pricing system and urges the adoption of a workable federal order in the absence of effective state pricing. We support the state milk marketing boards, such as the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, the North Dakota Milk Stabilization Board, and the Virginia Milk Commission. Land O'Lakes supports reform of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board to promote transparency and accountability in distribution of revenues pooled.

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

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

### Resolutions

Land O'Lakes supports

- National adoption of the California standards for fluid milk.
- Adoption of an acceptable California federal order that retains quota value.
- Calculating the Class I mover as the average of Class III and IV plus \$.74 per cwt (average basis).

Land O'Lakes opposes

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

## 12. 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.

### 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.

Land O'Lakes opposes

- Legislation that would mandate use of eVerify without also including options that provide an expanded legal workforce.

## 13. Biotechnology

### Policy

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

### Resolutions

Land O'Lakes supports

- Improved regulatory coordination between federal agencies to promote consistency with a unified regulatory policy on biotechnology
- 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.

## 14. 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 milks 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

- Effectively drafting and implementation of bioengineered ingredient disclosure rules consistent with industry capabilities and Congressional intent
- Maintaining and defending standards of identity for dairy products.

Land O'Lakes opposes

- Local, state, or federal actions that would mandate a label on products containing biotech-derived ingredients.

## 15. Nutrition and Food Safety

### Policy

Land O'Lakes is dedicated to delivering quality, fresh, tasteful, safe, wholesome and healthful dairy products to our customers. Land O'Lakes believes that our producers have the right to make their own decision on how to best produce safe, high-quality milk using any accurate, scientifically-based information regarding approved technology.

1 All milk is tested for antibiotic residues in accordance with the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO), and  
2 any milk that does not meet the standards of the PMO is rejected from the market. Hence, all marketed milk is  
3 “antibiotic free.” We urge vigorous scrutiny by FDA and state agencies on marketing claims for specialty milk  
4 and vigorous enforcement against false and misleading claims.  
5

6 Due to the significant health risk associated with the consumption of raw (unpasteurized) milk, Land O’Lakes  
7 does not permit members to sell raw milk and opposes laws and regulations that would allow or expand  
8 consumer access to unpasteurized milk. We support mandatory milk quality inspection standards and raw milk  
9 label disclosure warnings in states that allow limited sales of unpasteurized milk to consumers.  
10

11 Land O’Lakes is committed to working with federal and state agencies to establish a clear direction for food  
12 plants and farms to assure the safety of our food system. We’re also committed to working with agricultural  
13 producers to improve on-farm bio-security measures. We support reasonable, science-based regulations on  
14 feed mills to help prevent the introduction of BSE into U.S. cattle, or introduction of any other feed-borne  
15 animal disease or health hazard.  
16

17 As different government agencies develop programs and regulations for food safety and bio-security, we urge  
18 coordination of efforts. We urge special attention be paid to avoid duplicate levels of regulatory authority and  
19 procedures. We support the adoption of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) procedures in  
20 food production plants as a proven, effective method of assuring food safety. We urge consideration of using  
21 the principles of HACCP as the foundation for assuring the safety of feed for animals.  
22

23 Land O’Lakes supported passage of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in 2010. This legislation  
24 provides FDA with the resources and authorities the agency needs to help strengthen our nation’s food safety  
25 system by making prevention the focus of our food safety strategies.  
26  
27

## 28 **Resolutions**

29 Land O’Lakes supports

- 30 • Completion of a new, evidence-based dietary reference intake (DRI) analysis for sodium in order to  
31 update government sodium policy recommendations.
- 32 • Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act and effective implementation of the National School Lunch  
33 and School Breakfast Programs in order to serve healthy meals with nutritious dairy products including  
34 cheese, unflavored, and flavored milk.
- 35 • Allowing offering a variety of milk options in school meal programs including flavored milk. Milk provides  
36 nine essential nutrients to children and has long been a cornerstone of healthy school meals.
- 37 • Implementing FSMA through rulemaking that enhances public health and safety by: requiring all food  
38 companies to develop a food safety plan; adopting a risk-based approach to inspection; improving the  
39 safety of imported food and food ingredients as well as making foreign suppliers meet these stringent  
40 standards.
- 41 • Research-based and transparent processes for establishing any government nutrition standards.

42 Land O’Lakes opposes

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

## 16. Promotion of Agricultural Products

### Policy

Land O'Lakes continues to support generic 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.

## 17. 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 the developing world. 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

1 Land O'Lakes supports

- 2 • The important and meaningful work of Land O'Lakes International Development, an independent  
3 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is affiliated with Land O'Lakes, Inc.
- 4 • Robust funding for the Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, and the International  
5 Affairs budget through USAID and the Department of State.
- 6 • The permanent authorization of the "Feed the Future" Initiative through the Global Food Security Act,  
7 and the requisite resources to ensure agricultural development remains a priority of U.S. Government-  
8 funded foreign assistance.
- 9 • Maintaining robust U.S. Government commitment to development assistance programs supported  
10 through the 150 account and the Farm Bill-supported USAID Food for Peace, USAID Farmer to Farmer  
11 and USDA Food for Progress programs, which respectively help eliminate hunger, prevent famines and  
12 reduce food insecurity among the world's poorest and most vulnerable people in low income food deficit  
13 countries; leverage the invaluable support of American volunteer experts overseas to support food  
14 security; and build robust market-driven agricultural value chains in development countries
- 15 • Ongoing robust support for the USAID-administered Cooperative Development Program, which builds  
16 cooperatives and their networks in a way that enables smallholder farmers to leverage economies of  
17 scale (including access to ag inputs and services), strengthens markets and the business enabling  
18 environment, and maximizes the role that cooperatives play in providing women with access to formal  
19 financial systems.
- 20 • Continuing the authorization and increased funding for the USDA Local and Regional Procurement  
21 (LRP) development program as a means of building local capacity and resiliency, strengthening local  
22 food chains and increasing the efficiency of U.S. Government food aid resources. LRP should not be  
23 exclusively tied to McGovern-Dole Food for Education funding, and should be used in instances where  
24 it is more effective and efficient than monetized commodities. The use of cash vouchers for local  
25 purchase should also be considered to support food aid over imported, monetized commodities.
- 26 • Providing food aid when circumstances require, whether through Local and Regional Procurement  
27 programs, or monetization mechanisms that do not offset local markets.
- 28 • Government-led development assistance that recognizes the critical role that women play in agriculture  
29 globally and that allocates funds to further empower women in agriculture.  
30

31 **18. Trade**

32 **Policy**

33 Land O'Lakes believes it's the obligation of the U.S. government to be a vigorous advocate for U.S. farmers  
34 and agribusiness and to develop mutual strategies for new trade agreements that will assure success of U.S.  
35 agriculture in world trade and expanded markets for agricultural products.

36  
37 We support continued U.S. membership in the World Trade Organization and moving forward on the WTO  
38 framework by eliminating export subsidies, reducing trade-distorting agricultural support programs, and  
39 opening new, profitable markets for U.S. food and agricultural exports by ensuring that countries with the  
40 highest import protections make the largest strides toward allowing greater access.  
41

1 We urge negotiators to establish international trade agreements that increase agricultural product exports and  
2 do not adversely affect the overall market for American agricultural products or hinder the ability to provide an  
3 effective safety net for producers; minimize any disruptive impacts that additional dairy product and dairy  
4 animal imports could have on producers, consumers and the domestic market; aggressively implement trade  
5 rules in ways that benefit U.S. producers and food companies, and pursue remedies against nations that don't  
6 comply with international trade agreements.

7  
8 We believe Trade Promotion Authority, especially when coupled with judiciously implemented Trade  
9 Adjustment Assistance, to be an important tenant of U.S. trade policy.

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

15  
16 We are concerned about the monopolistic industry structure in New Zealand and steps taken by its  
17 government that have permitted one company to dominate domestic and international dairy markets.

18  
19 We support the work of the Consortium for Common Food Names to combat the European Union's aggressive  
20 efforts to claw-back generic food names through the abuse of so-called Geographic Indicators in food sales.  
21 We strongly oppose any agreement that would restrict the general use of generic food names.

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

## 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 Land O'Lakes opposes

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

## 40 **19. Taxes**

1 **Policy**

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

5  
6 **Resolutions**

7 Land O'Lakes supports

- 8 • Tax policy that recognizes the unique relationship between agricultural cooperatives and their farmer  
9 owners but does not create an unintended imbalance in the marketplace.
- 10 • The current \$5 million estate and gift tax exemption and urge for the future elimination of the estate tax  
11 for ongoing family-owned enterprises while maintaining stepped up basis for inherited estates. We  
12 oppose carry-over basis.
- 13 • Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification to create uniform rules for taxing earnings from non-  
14 residents.
- 15 • The choice of cash-based accounting for agriculture.

16 Land O'Lakes opposes

- 17 • Tax policy that would result in a net tax increase on farmers and cooperatives as compared to the “old”  
18 Sec. 199 deduction.

19 **20. Workplace**

20 **Policy**

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

24  
25 Land O'Lakes endorses a strong emphasis on educational and occupational safety programs directed toward  
26 making farms and cooperatives safer places to work and live. Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
27 regulation and inspection of agriculture operations is warranted to maintain these safeguards, as long as  
28 enforcement actions are fair and reasonable. Education and voluntary adoption of practices and safeguards  
29 designed to prevent farm accidents deserve top priority.

30  
31 Special attention needs to be paid to safety for children who live on farms or are part of the family operation.  
32 We support OSHA’s limited exemption allowing that “youths of any age may work at any time in any job on a  
33 farm owned or operated by their parents, or someone standing in place of their parent”.

34  
35 **Resolutions**

36 Land O'Lakes supports

- 37 • Workable measures to make collectively-bargained, multi-employer pension plans solvent in the long  
38 term.

- 1 • Limiting the annual possible premium rate increase for cooperatives participating in multiple employer  
2 pension plans.
- 3 • Affordable health insurance options for farmers and rural cooperatives.

## 4 **21. Political Activity**

### 5 **Policy**

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

### 11 12 **Resolutions**

13 Land O'Lakes supports

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

## 16 **22. In Memory**

### 17 **Policy**

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