

TEXAS FARM BUREAU  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES

WRITING GOOD RESOLUTIONS

- I. IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM. Accurate identification of major problems requires involvement of a maximum number of county Farm Bureau members to determine the nature, extent, and impact of each problem.
- II. EXPLORE TENTATIVE SOLUTIONS. Again, a maximum number of county Farm Bureau members must be involved in contributing ideas on suggested solutions to identified problems. Naturally, each person contacted may offer a different solution to the same problem.
- III. EXERCISE PD COMMITTEE JUDGMENT. Committee must determine which problems are deserving of the all-out effort required for solution; the best possible solution to those problems; whether or not each problem falls within the sphere of influence of Farm Bureau; and at what level (community, county, state or national) solutions may be most effectively implemented.
- IV. READ THE POLICY BOOK! Current policies may already offer sound and workable solutions to one or more of the problems selected as priority state or national issues by the Committee. There is no need to reaffirm current state or national policies.
- V. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR COUNTY CONVENTION. Resolutions are recommended policies. Keep recommendations simple and straightforward. Make sure each resolution clearly identifies the problem to be solved, and the recommended solution. Submit proposed resolutions to voting delegates at the county convention.
- VI. SUBMIT APPROVED RESOLUTIONS TO STATE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE. Following the county convention, file approved resolutions on community and county problems in your county Farm Bureau office and incorporate them as a part of your county program of work. Type approved state or national resolutions on the forms provided to each county by the state office (type each resolution on a separate page). Title each resolution according to the policy book title for the subject matter of the resolution. If the resolution is not clearly self-explanatory, add a brief explanation of the purpose or reason for the resolution. **Resolutions must reach the Texas Farm Bureau state office before midnight, October 31.**
- VII. FOLLOW-UP. Attend state and national conventions to support your resolutions and ensure that they become state or national policies of Farm Bureau.

(over)

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EXAMPLES

I. NOT ACCEPTABLE

Be it resolved that we, the Jones County Farm Bureau, support Resolution 104.

II. POOR

We recommend adoption of Resolution 104 by the Texas Legislature.

III. BETTER

We urge the Texas Legislature to adopt Resolution 104 on Farm-to-Market roads.

IV. GOOD

We urge the Texas Legislature to adopt Resolution 104 which will provide necessary funds for relocating county road signs and markers.

V. BEST

We urge the Texas Legislature to adopt Resolution 104 which will provide necessary county funds for relocating county road signs and markers so that farm machinery can safely clear the signs and markers when yielding to on-coming or passing traffic.

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## HOW TO GET PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS ACCEPTED

If a County Farm Bureau wishes **to re-affirm part of the current policy** to make certain that part of the TFB policy is retained, the County needs to state the page and the lines to be retained and state the current policy. **Example:** Reaffirm: State Policy Manual – Natural Resources, Groundwater 150, page 50, lines 2 and 3. *“Groundwater captured by a landowner should, by law, be owned and fully controlled by the land owner.”* **Follow up with stated reasons.**

**NOTE:** When a County simply states a policy already in the manual but does not specify page and lines, it causes the Committee to think that the submitting County did not read the policy that is already in the policy manual, which results in the committee rejecting the proposed policy. Always review possible pertinent areas of the policy manuals prior to submitting any resolutions.

If a County Farm Bureau wishes **to remove, change or replace current policy**, the County should show current language in policy manual to be removed, changed, or replaced. Clearly show words to be deleted by typing in the policy and striking through words to be deleted. If there is a proposed change, underline the new language. **Example:** State Policy book – Highways, page 66, lines 8 and 9 *“Fire guards should be maintained ~~where needed~~ everywhere on highway right-of-ways.”* **Follow up with stated reasons.**

Counties should give clear reasons for any and all resolutions submitted. Each year Texas Farm Bureau sends resolution packets to each County Farm Bureau with the forms and the information explaining how to properly submit resolutions. Even though information for writing good resolutions is made available, some resolutions submitted are poorly written. Poorly written resolutions are more likely to be rejected. Contact your field representative for assistance – don’t wait for a County meeting.

This resolution process is very important. If a County Farm Bureau’s resolution is not accepted by the State Resolutions Committee, **the County may re-submit their resolution at the State Convention for a vote.** A well written resolution is more likely to be adopted if the wording of the resolution and the reason is clear and concise.

Resolutions Hints, Feb 15, 08 ~ Developed by TFB District XII

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## POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES

Resolutions deal with county, state and national policies. Resolutions submitted to the Texas Farm Bureau must be adopted in a county Farm Bureau convention. Resolutions that deal strictly with county issues should not be submitted to the state office, but become a part of the counties' program of work.

Recommendations to the Board of Texas Farm Bureau deal with administrative matters; internal operation of the Texas Farm Bureau. Recommendations to the board of the Texas Farm Bureau must be adopted in a county board meeting and may be submitted to the state office any time during the year.

Resolutions Referred to the Texas Farm Bureau Board of Directors - Neither the State Resolutions Committee nor the state convention will address recommendations to the Board that were received from the counties as recommendations. The State Resolutions Committee will determine if a resolution is an administrative matter and can classify the resolution as a recommendation to the Board. If a county is dissatisfied with the classification, the county can still bring it up on the Convention Floor. It would be handled like any other resolution that was not included in the Resolutions Committee report.

### Rigid vs. Flexible Resolution -

A rigid resolution is very precise and accurate, inflexibly fixed or set in opinion. Many times no alternative is expressed, for example - We favor repeal of the federal estate tax.

A flexible resolution is capable of being adapted or modified. Many times it provides an alternative to the original thought. For example - We favor repeal of the federal estate tax. Pending repeal, federal estate tax exemptions or credits should be tied to the Consumer Price Index.

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