

Grassroots



Policy Development

- **Finding issues and beginning the policy development process.**
 - Take a look at your own operation and identify agricultural issues that you would like to see fixed to help your operation run smoother and be better equipped to feed America.
 - Talk to friends and neighbors. See if they have similar issues that are near and dear to their hearts. Issues could range from water rights to private land trespassing or even disease in livestock
 - While attending your county Farm Bureau board meetings start a discussion and see what issues may be important to your community/area as a whole.
- **Bringing forward the issues.**
 - Some of the best places to bring your issues forward are during the Issue Advisory Committees that meet during MFBF Summer Conference. The committees are specific to areas of major topic issues so you can easily find a place for your issue to fit.
 - After Summer Conference, take discussion and ideas from the committees you attended back to your county Farm Bureau.
 - If the issue is a pressing matter, you may also contact your Farm Bureau District Director, Regional Manager, or the MFBF state office.
- **Vote on the issue and pass it on.**
 - To turn an issue into policy bring it forward at your county Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in September. The members present will vote to turn the issue into a well stated policy and pass it on to the state level via forms.
 - Voting delegates are also chosen at County Annual Meetings. The delegate position gives members the chance to sit on the delegate floor during Annual Convention and vote on the new polices that were gathered from the County Annual meetings.
- **Review of the proposed policies.**
 - After all proposed policies and Bylaw changes have been gathered at the state office, the Policy Development Committee convenes to organize and review the proposed changes and view them as they would look in the policy book.
 - After the conclusion of the meeting, a policy packet is sent to all Voting Delegates to review prior to the Delegate Session.
- **Passing the policies at the delegate session.**
 - Voting Delegates from all the county Farm Bureau's join together during the Delegate Session at Annual Convention to vote on adding proposed policies and changes to the MFBF Policy Book.
 - To pass, policies must have a 2/3 yes vote by the delegate body.
- **Getting in the MFBF Policy Book.**
 - Finalized polices, that are passed by the delegate body, are organized into the policy book and MFBF staff has the ability to make small grammatical changes if necessary.
 - For the new year, an updated policy book is printed and distributed to membership.
- **Policies in action.**
 - Lobbyists and MFBF staff use policies as a foundation to follow to advocate for farmers and ranchers on the legislative level.
 - Policies help give Montana Farmers and Ranchers a voice when it comes to the state and federal legislature.

Brought to you by the MFBF Policy Development Committee