

Policy Advisory Group Report

Members

- Linda Chezem
- Phil Dale
- David Day
- Rusty Deckard
- Bob Geswein
- Dan Gordon
- Elbert Gordon
- Bob Guernsey
- Todd Janzen
- Tom Keithley
- Joe Kelsay
- Paul Kleinknecht
- Gary Michel
- Jerry Rulon
- Denise Scarborough
- Brad Starr
- Tim Tabert
- Jim Walsh
- Jim Wenning

Property Rights Policy Advisory Group

The Property Rights Policy Advisory Group met on June 26 to discuss UAV updates, data transparency evaluators and the fence law. The group also reviewed county submissions and drafted policy resolutions for the resolutions committee in August.

The group discussed the American Farm Bureau Federation's comments regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's proposed rule regarding UAVs. AFBF has asked the FAA to relax and/or modify standards that would prohibit small UAVs from operating over a person not directly participating in the farming operation, operating at night and flying beyond the visual line of sight.

Todd Janzen, from Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP, spoke about the ag data transparency evaluator. This tool will allow farmers to quickly and easily review the terms of use, privacy policies, end user license agreements, guiding principles and data sharing agreements for precision ag products. The tool works by asking product providers a series of standard questions that would give farmers insight to the types of data agreements each has, without having to fully understand the legal framework in each agreement.

The Indiana Agricultural Law Foundation has agreed to financially assist a family who is appealing a Starke Circuit Court ruling regarding Indiana's fence law. The law states that, where one adjoining land is agricultural land, each property owner is responsible for building, repairing and maintaining half of a fence that is used as a partition fence between the two properties. In this case, both the adjoining landowner and the township trustee are refusing to build, according to the law, half of the partition fence. The Starke County judge has refused relief by interpreting the meaning of using the fence inconsistently with the meaning of the partition fence statute.

The group recommended policy resolutions on endangered

species, annexation, eminent domain, insurance, tort reform, agri-tourism liability, unmanned aircraft systems, criminal law, criminal trespass and gun control. Many of the suggested changes were based on the following principles:

- Policy goals have already been achieved and current laws adequately addressed the issue.
- Current policy is unconstitutional.
- Policy was not a core INFB issue.

The group also suggested internal recommendations regarding educational programs on mineral and surface rights and leasing issues and rail trails. Dan Gordon (Wells, District 4) will serve as the group's representative on the resolutions committee.

Questions regarding the activities of the Property Rights PAG can be directed to one of the group members or to [Mark Thornburg](#), 317-692-7849, and [Amy Cornell](#), 317-692-8005, the Farm Bureau staff members facilitating the group.