

## NFU Board Resolution

The family farm is the keystone of a free, progressive, and democratic national society as well as a strong America, and is the basis of a safe, secure, and stable food system. It provides opportunities for individual enterprise to all families in our society to achieve economic and social stability, as well as soil, water, and environmental stewardship of our natural resources and unparalleled production efficiency. National Farmers Union's Board of Directors, in its continued efforts to protect family farms, calls on Congress in 2018 to provide strong support and increased funding in the best interests of family farms, rural communities and consumers.

Given persistent and ongoing economic challenges in the farm and rural economy, Congress must pass a farm bill and necessary supplemental assistance as soon as possible. American farmers are not only suffering from price pressure that has reduced net farm income by half over the last four years, but devastating wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters continue to punish agricultural communities. Trade policies continue to promote the sale of farm products at prices below the cost of production. Farm bill legislation in 2018 must strengthen the safety net so that farmers and ranchers can manage risk, stay in business and continue to feed our country.

Any legislation must include:

Increased and robust reference prices under the Price Loss Coverage program that accounts for cost of production,

Technical corrections to the Agricultural Risk Coverage program for improved performance,

Strong crop insurance and risk management tools, including whole farm revenue coverage and non-insured assistance program,

An incentives-based inventory management program to manage milk supplies based on market demand and better reflects the actual cost of production,

Expansion of insurance options for livestock,

Cotton as a covered commodity,

Short-term assistance for cotton through the continuation of the ginning cost-share program,

Meaningful mechanisms to address oversupply of grain and dairy,

Programs that improve beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers' and ranchers' access to land, capital, efficiency and markets,

Strong nutrition programs to provide a safety net against hunger,

Additional acreage under the Conservation Reserve Program,

Maintenance of funding for working lands conservation programs that promote active stewardship and locally led conservation activities

Climate mitigation research and technical assistance at national and local levels,

Robust funding for programs that promote economic, infrastructure and clean energy development in rural communities with priority given to development of local cooperatives.