

EDUCATION

Organized the Beginning Farmer Institute which helps develop leadership and advocacy skills for new and transitioning farmers

Held NFU Women's Conference, a national education program with a focus on risk management skills and leadership development



Held annual All-States Leadership Camp, where young adults learned leadership skills and the value of cooperatives

Helped nearly 100 students gain understanding of cooperative businesses during the annual NFU College Conference on Cooperatives

Provided four young people internships in NFU's Washington, D.C., office



Developed comprehensive curriculum for youth in grades 1 to 12 and adults that focused on using cooperation to achieve results

Provided learning opportunities for NFU's National Youth Advisory Council through leadership training and visits to Washington, D.C.

Awarded college scholarships totaling \$6,000 to outstanding young members

MEMBERSHIP

Introduced 10 value-added member benefits, including discounts on health screenings, pet insurance and business supplies, with easy Internet signup



Forged new partnership with Hastings Mutual to offer discounted farm insurance to members in several states

Launched television and email campaign to increase awareness of Farmers Union and inviting people to join and learn more

Provided member records management services for 12 small state organizations

MEDIA OUTREACH

President Roger Johnson and NFU staff participated in numerous television, radio, print and online interviews advocating the issues most important to NFU members, including: Bloomberg Television's "Bottom Line"; NPR's "The Diane Rehm Show"; ABC Television's "Good Morning America"; the BBC's "Today" radio program; the Weather Channel, The Washington Post, Associated Press, Reuters and The Wall Street Journal




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HARD AT WORK



A REVIEW OF
NFU'S MAJOR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
IN 2012



FARM BILL

Published a study with Drs. Daryll Ray and Harwood Schaffer from the University of Tennessee on the positive impact a market-driven inventory system (MDIS) would have on commodity price volatility, while saving the federal government money



Successfully advocated for a farm bill draft that passed the Senate and House Committee on Agriculture that included permanent disaster programs, better risk management tools, funding for renewable energy programs, and more effective payment limitations to direct funds to family-sized farms

Led a diverse coalition of stakeholders in a "Farm Bill Now!" rally, drawing national media coverage, 20 members of Congress, 90 supporting organizations, and more than 500 farmers and ranchers from across the country



Visited offices of all 535 members of Congress through grassroots participation to discuss Farmers Union priorities for the next farm bill

CONSUMERS

Continued advocating for mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) of meat, poultry and seafood in the face of legal challenges by our nation's competitors

SPECIALTY CROPS

Advocated for policies that help improve risk management opportunities for specialty crop and organic farmers

TRADE

Continued to work with the office of the U.S. Trade Representative to improve the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement in the interest of domestic sugar and dairy farmers

Successfully urged the administration to deny a request by the Mexican government to end 16-year-old trade rules that benefit U.S. tomato farmers

Advocated for family farm-friendly trade positions as a member of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Advisory Committee for Trade



Continued to support key principles of the TRADE Act to be included in all free trade agreements, including TPP

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY

Successfully lobbied both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to include a supply management provision and family-sized farm incentives in their draft versions of a dairy program overhaul



Fought for implementation of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) proposed rule to protect family farmers and ranchers from the abuses of packers and processors

Formed a beef industry checkoff group to reform the beef checkoff system

CONSERVATION

Conducted two regional polls on farmers' attitudes toward conservation and briefed congressional staff on the results



Successfully advocated for a streamlined conservation title

Sponsored a campaign to protect the health of bees and other pollinators

Supported legislation that would both protect the environment and provide regulatory certainty for farmers using pesticides

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Strongly defended the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) from attacks by opposing organizations and members of Congress

Successfully advocated for the extension of production tax credits for wind and the Biodiesel Tax Credit



BIOTECHNOLOGY

Worked with biotech industry on an accord agreement that outlines a process for pending patent expiration of agricultural biotech traits to ensure farmers access to more affordable generic products

RURAL LIFE

Successfully advocated for funding for beginning farmer and rancher outreach, focusing in particular on returning veterans and advocated for increased funding for farm bill rural development programs



Collaborated with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on efforts to improve the safety of children on farms

Raised \$58,000 for Feeding America, with funds matched by Howard G. Buffett, to support food banks in rural communities

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Expanded international outreach by sending members to do volunteer work in Africa through the Farmer-to-Farmer Exchange program

Continued building the World Farmers Organization, with NFU Vice President of International Relations Robert Carlson holding the office of president



Attended several United Nations events, including negotiations leading up to the Rio+20 U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development and a Food and Agriculture Organization roundtable on agriculture and climate change

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Enjoyed a 72.5 percent success rate for candidates supported by NFU's Political Action Committee, NATFARM-PAC