

## **FAMILY FARMING AND FARM BILLS**

### **2017 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The primary objectives of national agricultural policy are to enable farmers to protect net farm income in troubling times, improve the quality of rural life, and increase the number of family farmers, so that family farmers may continue to provide a reliable supply of food, fuel and fiber and serve as stewards of our nation's resources. National Farmers Union (NFU) believes the deal that was struck when passing the 2014 Farm Bill should be honored and will vehemently oppose any cuts until the next farm bill is passed. Over the last several years, producers have been subjected to dramatic reductions in commodity and livestock prices, raising the need for timely passage of a new farm bill. Future farm bills should contain provisions that reflect the best interest of U.S farmers and ranchers' ability to maintain a productive and profitable industry.

U.S. agriculture touches all Americans and others around the world. It is important that a strong farm bill brings together a coalition that reflects the diversity of the people and interests impacted by the farm bill.

National Farmers Union believes any new farm bill should contain:

- Provisions that enable family farmers to market their products locally and regionally;
- Incentives for farming practices that enhance soil health and productivity;
- Increases in reference prices for all commodities;
- An adequate income safety net that is based on the cost of production and not solely an insurance program;
- A revised dairy program to meet the needs of family dairies;
- Cotton as a covered commodity;
- Loan rates for all crops shall be no lower than the cost of production;
- Conservation programs to protect the environment;
- Food and nutrition programs to protect the less fortunate;
- Energy programs to provide energy independence;
- A strong competition title to allow U.S. producers to be competitive in the global market;
- Payments made to farmers to reduce crop acreage when prices fall below the cost of production;
- A permanent disaster program on a per county basis;
- Investments in rural development and agricultural research; and
- CCC-held reserves shall be implemented to control commodity prices, and the release price shall be 1.75 times the loan rate.