

## **FAMILY FARMING AND LEADING THE WAY ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **2018 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Climate change jeopardizes food security and the livelihoods of American family farmers, ranchers and rural residents. Average global temperatures are rising faster than had been predicted by climate scientists, leading to more frequent and severe weather events. Producers and rural Americans have much to contribute to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions, which are exacerbating the negative consequences of climate change, through the development of renewable energy, implementation of carbon sequestration, climate-smart production, improved water management, and conservation practices. NFU will continue to lead in educating family farmers, ranchers and rural communities on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

There are four places on the planet that carbon can be stored, in our sky, ocean, plant life and in our soils. Within our industrial society, we are storing carbon at breakneck speed in our sky and oceans instead of where it will best serve us. NFU values leading the way to mitigating climate change by encouraging the storing of carbon in our plant life and in our soils. Ecological practices that promote soil health, which in turn builds soil humus, acting as a sink in storing carbon. Soil carbon is the energy in a healthy soil system.

NFU supports policies that expand renewable energy systems, especially in conjunction with rural electric cooperatives.

NFU supports research funding for soil health, climate-smart production, improved water management, and applicable cropping systems.

NFU supports the promotion of voluntary conservation practices that focus on water quality and quantity concerns, as well as range resiliency.

NFU supports development of sustainable crop systems designed for biofuel and bioproducts production.

NFU should lead and support efforts to encourage carbon sequestration in the soils of family farmers, ranchers, and agro-foresters, as a means of income enhancement, when coupled with on-farm conservation techniques scientifically proven to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.