



UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

May 15, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

On behalf of National Farmers Union's nearly 200,000 family farmer, rancher and rural members, thank you for your efforts to assist farmers coping with lost markets and low prices resulting from ongoing trade disputes. We urge you to continue to work with Congress to craft a package that will adequately address the broad, long-term impacts to all of American agriculture.

Losses resulting from current trade disputes are not limited to the 2019 crop year. Many commodities are not always marketed in the same year they are harvested, especially during periods of depressed commodity prices. To adequately support farmers experiencing multi-year losses, NFU believes payments to farmers should be based on historical production.

While retaliatory tariffs directly target several commodities, many other commodity markets have been affected by trade disputes. For example, prices of minor oilseeds consistently track with soybean prices. NFU requests you provide payments for commodities that are directly and indirectly impacted by disruptions in international markets. We also encourage you to avoid undue disparities between payment rates for various commodities.

We are deeply concerned that it will take years to overcome the damage to our markets. In addition to direct financial support to offset losses in the short-term, NFU encourages you to provide incentives to reduce production. Doing so would stretch the value of the program and could have positive, long-term benefits for farmers grappling with oversupply.

Thank you for your work to offset family farmers' losses caused by trade disputes. Please reach out to me if I or my staff can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Roger Johnson  
President

cc: Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow, Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Conaway, House Committee on Agriculture