



FAMILY FARMING AND THE 2020 ELECTION 2020 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities are facing substantial challenges. Low prices, volatile trade policies, weather pressure, and political gridlock have all combined to create a witch's brew that is poisoning rural America. It is imperative that candidates for political office at all levels of government—local, county, state, and federal—understand the crisis facing rural America and respond with positive policy proposals to strengthen agriculture, protect family farms and ranches, and support our rural communities. Farmers Union would ask all candidates for office in 2020 to consider and address the following issues:

- Sound social and economic policies that create opportunities for rural communities to grow and thrive into the future to avoid cultural and economic stagnation;
- Extreme weather events impacting agriculture nationwide, and what policies and programs can be created and/or utilized to help family farmers and ranchers address these challenges;
- Significant, long-term solutions to strengthen the farm safety net that builds upon the 2018 Farm Bill;
- A free, fair, and reliable trading system that allows access for U.S. agricultural goods and provides a fair and equitable marketplace for agricultural producers worldwide;
- The stabilization of the current agricultural workforce and the future flow of agricultural workers through a flexible, efficient, and compassionate agricultural worker visa program that is easily accessible to family farms;
- Insufficient antitrust enforcement that has resulted in an unprecedented rate of consolidation in agriculture;
- The role of agriculture in addressing climate change through both adapting to and mitigating the root causes of climate change through existing USDA programs and other initiatives and new proposals to solve this global crisis; and
- Access to and the affordability of rural healthcare, addiction prevention and treatment, and mental health services.

We call upon all Farmers Union members to engage and educate candidates on these and other issues.