



FAMILY FARMING AND COOPERATIVES 2020 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

National Farmers Union's mission statement states that the organization seeks to advocate for "family farmers, ranchers, fishers, and their communities through education, cooperation, and legislation." The cooperation side of the triangle represents members working together to achieve common goals and Farmers Union's commitment to cooperative education and cooperative business development. Farmers Union and the cooperative movement go hand in hand as people come together for a common purpose of mutual benefits.

Support of and the continued success of cooperatives is essential to the mission of every Farmers Union chapter. When cooperatives are successful, not only do the members benefit, but rural America does as well. Cooperatives create employment opportunities and keep economic benefits in the community and surrounding area. It is essential that Farmers Union continues to foster the relationships that have been built and strengthens and develops them for the future of our organization.

NFU policy references cooperative support throughout. There are sections that direct the organization to vigorously defend the Capper-Volstead Act; support cooperatives as a value-added tool for farmers; guard against monopolization of cooperatives; support the Rochdale principles; support and provide education of cooperative issues; support Farmers Union affiliated and non-affiliated cooperatives to build rural communities, and support federal legislation that supports cooperatives that support rural infrastructure and renewable energy.

Cooperatives remain an excellent tool not only for family farms and family ranches but also to maintain robust rural economies.

NFU and its members must continue and expand efforts to help educate, develop, research, and support additional cooperatives for the benefit of agriculture and rural communities. Education on the importance of member engagement and involvement in cooperative management and oversight should be emphasized. Furthermore, NFU should consider how a cooperative model can be applied to new and non-traditional businesses and services that further promote member-owned and administered economic systems.