Memo

TO: Farmers Union State Presidents, Staff, and Fly-In Participants
FROM: Mike Stranz, Vice President of Advocacy
DATE: Friday, August 21, 2020
RE: National Farmers Union Fall Virtual Legislative Fly-In, September 14-18, 2020

We look forward to working with all of you over the next several weeks to prepare for NFU’s signature advocacy event—the Fall Legislative Fly-In. Though all of this year’s briefings and meetings will be virtual, your participation is critical to getting the Farmers Union message and on-the-ground stories from rural America in front of Congress. In addition to the information in this memo, included here is a TENTATIVE agenda for the Virtual Fly-In.

Preparation
NFU will share documents that will detail the issues that will be discussed during meetings with legislators and their staff. Four main topics will be covered:
- Agricultural Market Reform
- COVID-19 Response
- Rural Resilience
- Climate and Energy

Members are encouraged to share their stories about these issues and to make a connection with the elected officials they meet. Further background material about these topics will be shared as the Virtual Fly-In approaches. NFU staff will host a tutorial session for online advocacy on Thursday, September 10, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern. This event will detail the technical needs for online advocacy, provide a how-to for video conferencing technology, and offer suggestions for holding a successful Congressional meeting in this format. This meeting will be recorded so that participants can watch at a more convenient time if they are unable to join in live.

Congressional Office Meetings
Fly-In participants will be placed onto teams, generally of no more than eight members and typically from the same state, and will be assigned a series of meetings throughout the week of September 14. These meetings will be scheduled during two windows of time each day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern), with most gatherings occurring on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of that week. Each team will be assigned about five Congressional meetings, during which Fly-In participants will join video or phone conferences with the legislators and/or their staff. Links to these meetings will be provided with the schedule, which will be shared in early September. NFU staff is working with Congressional offices to finalize these arrangements, which are always subject to change according to House and Senate schedules.

Congressional Town Hall Meetings
If a larger group from your state would like to meet with a particular member of Congress, the virtual meeting will likely be held in a town hall format. Please let NFU staff know as soon as possible if you would like this option or if you need an online platform provided for a meeting that your state has already scheduled.

Briefings
Another way to take part in Virtual Fly-In activities is to join in midday briefings or events during the week of September 14. These are larger, town hall-style webinars that will likely include dozens – or even hundreds – of participants. Please see the attached agenda for a tentative schedule for these briefings. These events will
allow participants to learn more about how issues facing Farmers Union members are being considered at the federal level.

**Concluding Event**
Finally, as a way to wind down after a week of advocacy and to reflect upon our work, NFU will host a Virtual Fly-In Wrap Up event on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 6:00-7:30pm Eastern. This should be a fun time with entertainment, interaction with fellow Farmers Union members, and a time to think about how working together helps family farmers and ranchers.

### TENTATIVE Agenda

**Thursday, Sept. 10**
1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern

- Online Advocacy Tutorial Session, hosted by NFU
  
  *(To be recorded for those unable to participate live)*

**Monday, Sept. 14**
Throughout the Day

- Meetings with Congressional Offices

12:00-1:00 p.m. Eastern

- Briefings from U.S. Department of Agriculture Officials – **TENTATIVE**

**Tuesday, Sept. 15**
Throughout the Day

- Meetings with Congressional Offices

1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern

- Briefings from Congressional leadership – **TENTATIVE**

**Wednesday, Sept. 16**
Throughout the Day

- Meetings with Congressional Offices

12:00-12:30 p.m. Eastern

- Event with Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) – **TENTATIVE**

**Thursday, Sept. 17**
Throughout the Day

6:00-7:30 p.m. Eastern

- Virtual Fly-In Wrap-Up Event

**Friday, Sept. 18**
Throughout the Day

- Meetings with Congressional Offices *(overflow day for meetings)*