



FAMILY FARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE 2022 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Climate change poses a threat to family farmers and ranchers. Shifting seasons, new precipitation patterns, and more frequent and severe extreme weather events and natural disasters expose farmers and ranchers to greater risk. These risks are being enhanced by secondary carbon factors including wildfire, desertification, and the release of carbon dioxide from oceans and permafrost.

Family farmers and ranchers are working to adapt to the changing climate by implementing conservation practices to build soil health and make their land more resilient. Farmers and ranchers can play a key role in mitigating climate change by storing carbon in soils and restoring ecosystems.

National Farmers Union (NFU) believes policies intended to address climate change should leverage agriculture's potential to be part of the solution. These policies should provide incentives to support farmers and ranchers as they tackle climate challenges. Public policy should also play a role in ensuring carbon and other ecosystem markets provide fair and transparent opportunities to farmers and ranchers. Additionally, it is essential to have a national energy policy that incentivizes carbon emission reductions using renewable energy, biofuels, and other technologies and products while balancing rural energy needs and jobs.

NFU supports a farmer-focused approach to climate change guided by the following principles or policies:

- State and federal conservation programs should have a stronger focus on climate-friendly practices;
- USDA should regulate carbon and other environmental credit markets to ensure they use consistent protocols and adhere to strict levels of fairness and transparency to ensure producers are adequately compensated;
- Early adopters of conservation practices should be rewarded for contributing to carbon sequestration and for other ecosystem services;
- Renewable fuels, including ethanol, biodiesel, and sustainable aviation fuels, must be a central feature of any effort to reduce carbon emissions;

- Incentives for energy efficiency, renewable energy production, and further development of the bioeconomy on family farms and in rural communities;
- Investment in public research on climate change, which is critical to reducing barriers for adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices;
- Promotion of opportunities for family farmers to articulate their climate mitigation efforts to consumers through food processors and retailers;
- Investments in USDA's Climate Hub network;
- Federal interagency coordination to develop or enhance the effectiveness of programs to assist agriculture and our nation's communities adapt to and mitigate climate change; and
- State and federal efforts to strengthen and expand our nation's infrastructure to withstand the effects of climate change, while also ensuring the needs of farmers, ranchers, and rural communities are addressed; and we encourage regional, state, and local governmental entities to develop plans to prepare for and mitigate extreme weather events that are occurring more commonly due to climate change.