



FAMILY FARMING AND SUPPLY CHAINS 2022 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic, unexpected shifts in supply and demand, natural disasters, and market concentration have caused significant supply chain disruptions for family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. Supply chain disruptions have led to reduced access to markets, higher prices for farm inputs and other goods and services, inadequate access to labor, and other social and economic problems.

National Farmers Union supports the following principles or policies to address these challenges:

- Increased enforcement of antitrust laws to spur competition throughout the agricultural supply chain, including for crop inputs such as seed, fertilizer, and crop protection products;
- Incentives to build resilience and foster competition in the farm and food system through expansion of local and regional production, processing, distribution, and storage;
- Relief to small business, including farms, food businesses, and others, through programs administered by USDA, the Small Business Administration, and other federal departments and agencies as appropriate, to ensure small businesses can survive and navigate continued disruptions;
- Increased access to and improved high-speed broadband Internet infrastructure and service in rural areas;
- Adequate funding for the United States Postal Service (USPS);
- Prompt delivery and affordable rates through USPS in all parts of the country;
- Funding and policy solutions that make emergency feeding operations, such as food banks and nonprofit feeding organizations, more resilient to supply chain disruptions;
- Immigration reform, including agricultural workforce reform, that includes a sensible path to legal status for undocumented workers, and that reforms the H-2A temporary agricultural worker visa program so that it serves the needs of workers and family farmers and ranchers;
- Incentives and programs to alleviate the labor shortage in the transportation industry;

- A permanent hours-of-service waiver for truckers who need to make timely deliveries for transporting livestock and inputs such as fertilizer;
- Allowing family farm operations to haul their own commodities with exemptions from mileage limitations, commercial driver's licenses, and commercial truck licensing requirements;
- Measures that resolve bottlenecks occurring at, to, and from, shipping ports;
- Improvements to the efficiency and reliability of our transportation systems for shipping, including infrastructure projects, new technologies, and increased coordination between the maritime, rail, and trucking industries;
- Streamlining of burdensome regulations needed to get products and inputs through the supply chain; and
- Remedies for systemic barriers that have prevented access to farm programs, markets, land, and other tools and resources faced by socially disadvantaged groups.