

Competition

- Advocate for a dedicated competition title.
- Advance Fairness for Farmers priorities, including:
 - Cattle market price discovery and transparency
 - Increase enforcement of the Packers & Stockyards Act (PSA)
 - Strengthen PSA rules, including addressing retaliation by packers against growers
 - Reinstate mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL)
 - Support local and regional food systems that increase competition and resilience
 - Reform checkoff programs to be producer controlled and regularly reviewed

Farm Programs

- Maintain and improve the farm safety net programs in the commodity and crop insurance titles.
- Increase loan rates and other price-based triggers to reflect higher commodity prices and input costs.
- Consider a shift in structure from revenue-based to commodity-based programs.

Permanent Disaster Program

- Address ongoing challenges created by ad hoc disaster legislation and programs, including long delays in implementation and unfair targeting of support.
- Incentivize the use of sustainable/climate-smart farming practices.
- Avoid undermining existing risk management products.
- Apply appropriate eligibility and payment caps.
- Explore ways for past ad hoc disaster programs to be reflected in the farm bill budget and baseline.

Crop Insurance Title

- Make risk management products more accessible for specialty crop producers and diverse cropping systems.
- Improve Whole Farm Revenue Protection to expand its use and adoption.
- Provide crop insurance discounts to farmers for planting cover crops or using other conservation practices that increase resiliency and decrease risk.
- Authorize a program that incentivizes farmers to voluntarily remove marginal or environmentally sensitive agricultural land from production on an annual basis in exchange for an increased crop insurance guarantee.

Dairy

- Support dairy growth management principles to stem the loss of family dairy farms.
- Strengthen the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program, which, with improvements, can serve as a useful risk management tool.

Climate, Conservation, and Energy

- Increase funding for farm bill conservation programs, which are essential for incentivizing the adoption of soil health and climate-friendly practices. Many of the current programs, such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), are underfunded.
- Maximize effectiveness and ease program application and delivery processes for farm bill conservation programs.
- Ensure integrity of private carbon markets and other efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make sure that agriculture plays a key role in these initiatives.
- Incentivize the use of managed grazing for livestock through conservation programs.
- Provide crop insurance discounts to farmers for planting cover crops, or using other conservation practices that increase resiliency or decrease risk.

Energy Title

- Focus on support for biofuels infrastructure.
- Continue to support the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems (including wind and solar) and energy efficiency improvements.

Research Title

- Invest in research, outreach, and education to improve and accelerate climate mitigation efforts, such as soil carbon sequestration, and climate adaptation through systems, practices, and tools for farmers.

Other Issues and Concerns

- NFU recognizes the need to increase farm bill funding or baseline. Without an increased baseline, there will be a need to make tradeoffs in priorities and between titles. Given the current policy and political climate, it appears unlikely that there will be an increase in baseline funding.
- It is essential that investments made through the farm bill are defensible to taxpayers.
- NFU urges lawmakers to support a strong nutrition title. NFU stands in solidarity with anti-hunger advocates and the nutrition community, and the time-tested farm bill coalition must stay together to ensure passage.
- Beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers must be well-served by this farm bill.
- Agricultural workforce policies and immigration laws need to be reformed to address persistent labor shortages.
- Provide mandatory funding for the Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) Program and the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN).