



December 13, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the more than 200,000 family farmer, rancher and rural members of National Farmers Union (NFU), thank you for your ongoing support for the passage of a five-year farm bill before the end of 2012. We urge you to include the farm bill in the package of legislation that raises revenues and cuts spending in order to avoid the fiscal cliff.

The last farm bill has already expired, and severe impacts will be felt by farmers, consumers and agribusinesses in early 2013 if a new farm bill is not passed. The costs of a short-term extension of a farm bill will be high, and the legislative effort required to pass an extension is just as great as the work needed to pass a five-year farm bill.

The bipartisan farm bills that were passed by the Senate in June and the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee in July would cut spending by \$23 billion and \$35 billion, respectively. Although there are other differences between the two versions of the farm bill, the Senate and House Agriculture committee chairs and ranking members have indicated their willingness to compromise. Most important, the two versions of the farm bill show bipartisan support for sensible and responsible spending reductions, and a compromise should be passed and signed into law this year.

Our national farm and food policy supports 16 million jobs across America, helps farmers manage their risk, continues to feed our nation's food insecure, provides important conservation and energy programs, and invests in the rural economy. All of these important efforts are in jeopardy without a farm bill.

Family farmers and ranchers need the certainty that only a five-year farm bill can provide. We strongly urge you to include a farm bill in any agreement to avoid the fiscal cliff.

Sincerely,

Roger Johnson
President