



UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

July 11, 2012

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson:

On behalf of National Farmers Union (NFU), I write regarding pending amendments to the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act (FARRM). Should these amendments come up for a roll call vote, NFU will score votes on the following amendments:

**Amendment #23 (Rep. Bob Goodlatte) - Damages the No-Cost Sugar Program**

Amendment number 23 drastically alters the no-cost sugar program, which has historically provided a cost-effective safety net for the nation's sugar producers. America's sugar producers support 142,000 jobs and generate nearly \$20 billion per year for the U.S. economy. Additionally, because of multiple trade agreements and World Trade Organization negotiations, the United States is currently the largest importer of sugar in the world. NFU opposes Amendment number 23.

**Amendment # 34 (Rep. Michael Conaway) - Undermines Fair Markets**

Amendment number 34 prevents the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) from continuing to work to provide protections for family farmers against anti-competitive practices by packers and processors. These anti-competitive practices have resulted from market concentration in the agricultural sector and have contributed to the loss of over 1.1 million beef and hog operations over the last 30 years. NFU opposes Amendment number 34.

**Amendment #46 (Rep. Tim Walz) - Extends MILC Program Temporarily**

Amendment number 46 allows dairy farmers to remain on the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program during the transition process to the new Dairy Producer Margin Program. This is an important amendment to ensure our nation's dairy farmers have continuity as Congress considers adjustments to dairy programs. NFU supports Amendment number 46.

**Amendment #55 (Rep. Tim Walz) - Extends National Sodsaver Protections**

Amendment number 55 provides important safeguards for native sod nationwide while still allowing producers to make production decisions regarding their land, with savings from the amendment directed toward the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. This amendment provides a win for both the environment and for beginning farmers and ranchers while maintaining the autonomy of existing farmers. NFU supports Amendment number 55.

**Amendment #74 (Rep. Randy Neugebauer) - Unnecessary COOL Reporting Requirements**

Amendment number 74 requires the secretary of agriculture to report on steps to remain in compliance with the decision of the World Trade Organization (WTO) regarding Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL). This amendment places unnecessary requirements on the secretary as the administration formulates a response to the WTO ruling. NFU opposes Amendment number 74.

**Amendment #79 (Rep. Kristi Noem) - Makes Ethanol Blender Pumps Eligible for REAP Funds**

Amendment number 79 allows for REAP funds to be used for ethanol blender pumps. In order to increase the biofuels market, the United States must build out its infrastructure to give consumers a choice at the pump. NFU supports Amendment number 79.

**Amendment #85 (Reps. David Scott and Bob Goodlatte) - Harms Family Dairy Farms**

Amendment number 85 removes Dairy Producer Margin Protection and Dairy Market Stabilization Programs and replaces it with a new Dairy Producer Margin Insurance Program. This measure should not be included at the expense of margin protection and market stabilization programs, both of which are critical safety net components. Without limits on supply, a margin protection program would undermine dairy prices and be burdensome to taxpayers and family dairies. NFU opposes Amendment number 85.

**Amendment #86 (Rep. Leonard Boswell) - Mandatory Funding for Energy Programs**

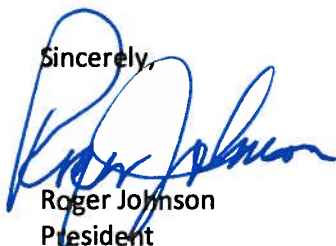
Amendment number 86 provides mandatory funding to vital energy title programs. It also repeals a provision prohibiting REAP funding of blender pumps. This is a balanced amendment that restores funding for programs that create jobs, increase energy security and provide new markets for farmers all across the country. NFU supports Amendment number 86.

**Amendment #94 (Rep. Jeff Fortenberry) - Establishes Sensible Payment Limitations**

Amendment number 94 places reasonable payment limitations of \$50,000 per individual and \$100,000 for a married couple on payments received through the Price Loss Coverage and Revenue Loss Coverage programs in Title I of the bill. The amendment also implements limits of \$75,000 and \$150,000 on payments from loan deficiency payments and marketing loan gains and closes the "actively-engaged" eligibility loophole. The farm safety net ought to be directed to those who most need assistance and this amendment improves upon the chairman's mark toward that end. NFU supports Amendment number 94.

Thank you for continuing to move this bill along the legislative process and I look forward to continuing to work with you. Should you have questions about other amendments, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 202-554-1600.

Sincerely,



Roger Johnson  
President

Cc: Members of the House Agriculture Committee