



2013 National Farmers Union Convention Tentative Agenda – General Attendance & Exhibitors

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place

1 Monarch Place
Springfield, MA 01144
413-781-1010

MassMutual Center

1277 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-787-6610

Saturday, March 2

- 8:00 – 5:00 **Policy Committee Meeting** (MassMutual Center, Meeting Room 5)
- 8:00 – 3:00 **Exhibitor Setup** (MassMutual Center, Exhibit Hall)
- 12:00 – 4:00 **Policy Committee Open for Presentations by Delegates**
(MassMutual Center, Meeting Room 1)
- 1:00 **Registration Opens and Tour Sign Up Begins** (MassMutual Center,
Ground Level)
- 2:00 – 3:00 **Bylaws Committee Meeting** (Sheraton Hotel)
- 3:00 – 3:30 **Rules and Credentials Committee Meeting** (Sheraton Hotel)
- 4:00 **VIP Sponsor Reception** *By invitation (MassMutual Center, Exhibit Hall)*
- 4:30 **Welcome Reception** (MassMutual Center, Exhibit Hall Foyer)
- 5:30 **Convention Opening Banquet** (MassMutual Center, Exhibit Hall)

Sunday, March 3
(All events at the MassMutual Center, unless noted)

7:15 – 8:00 **Prayer Service**

8:00 – 5:00 **Registration Open**

8:00 – 5:00 **Policy Committee Meeting**

8:00 – 5:00 **Exhibits Open**

8:00 – 9:00 **Education Director Meeting (Sheraton Hotel)**

8:00 – 8:30 **Convene/Call to Order**

- Presentation of Colors/National Anthem
- Welcome
- Preliminary Report of the Rules and Credentials Committee
- Preliminary Report of the Bylaws Committee
- Treasurer and Secretary Reports

8:45 – 9:00 **History Presentation Preview (Dr. Judy Barrett Litoff and Tom Giessel)**

9:00 – 9:30 **Sam Kass, White House Assistant Chef and Senior Policy Advisor for Healthy Food Initiatives (*invited*)**

9:30 – 10:15 **USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan**

9:00 – 11:00 **Policy Committee open for presentations by delegates**

10:15 – 10:30 **Next Generation Broadband Networks & Rural America**
AT&T Vice President of Public Policy Ramona Carlow

10:30 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 12:15 **Breakout Sessions**

United By Our Shared Challenges

Farmers Union members have farms of all shapes and sizes, but we all share many of the same struggles. Gaining access to fair and competitive markets, adapting to changing consumer demands, and accommodating the next wave of farmers are just a few of the challenges we face. Learn about what we all have in common and how Farmers Union can help us all work together.

Moderator: Al Gustin, Director of KFYR and KMBR Radio, Fargo, N.D. (retired)

Panelists: Dr. Harwood Schaffer, Research Assistant Professor, Agricultural Policy Analysis

Center, University of Tennessee
Tess Brown-Lavoie, Sidewalk Ends Farm, Providence, R.I.

Conservation Compliance: A Discussion

One of the hottest issues facing lawmakers in the next farm bill is whether or not to link crop insurance premium subsidies to certain conservation practices. There are many perspectives on the issue, and this panel will offer thoughts from all sides of the matter. Learn more about the pros and cons of conservation compliance and join in the discussion.

Moderator: Bruce Knight, Senior Advisor to the Nutrition Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Center

Panelists: Julie Sibbing, Director of Agricultural Programs, National Wildlife Federation
Laura Wood Peterson, Director of Government Affairs, National Association of Conservation Districts

Dr. David Graves, Manager, Secretary, American Association of Crop Insurers

International Agriculture Update

NFU is a member of the World Farmers Organisation and is committed to ensuring that farmers around the world are able to work together for a common cause. This breakout session will provide updates about progress in agriculture around the world and will help you to find out how Farmers Union members are making a difference on a global scale.

Moderator: Erin Schneider, Participant, Farmer-to-Farmer Program, USAID

Panelists: Robert Carlson, President, World Farmers Organisation; NFU Vice President of International Relations

Lystra Antoine, Director of Agricultural Development, Pioneer

Dr. Kwame Ameza Agbenyega, Director of Extension Services, Ministry of Food and Agriculture – Ghana

12:00 **Delegate Registration Closes**

12:30 **Lunch on your own**

Discover New England: Afternoon of Touring

(Specific departure time and other details found at www.NFU.org/convention)

TOUR OPTIONS

1. New England Farms: Tour a traditional maple sugar farm and an innovative berry plant farm. Two buses will head north to Deerfield to take turns visiting two farms. Bring your coat and comfy shoes! (Boxed lunch provided)

2. Colonial and Revolutionary History at Springfield Armory: A National Historic Landmark. Daniel Shays was a farmer and veteran of the revolution. In 1787, he led his fellow farmers in rebellion when farmers began losing their farms during the postwar depression. The target? Right here at the Springfield arsenal. The Springfield Armory Museum also houses a collection of historic firearms. Sign up for the group program or self-tour on your own time!

3. Basketball Hall of Fame and Quadrangle

Museums: A bus will make continuous circuits between the MassMutual Center, the Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Quadrangle Museums. No sign up, just catch the bus!

HOW TO SIGN UP: Individuals can sign up at the convention Saturday and Sunday—look for the tours table in the registration area. When you sign up you receive a colored dot for your badge—this helps volunteers get you on the right bus, and bring you back again.

1:00 – 3:00 **History Presentation (Dr. Judy Barrett Litoff and Tom Giessel)**

1:00 – 3:00 **Policy Committee Open for Presentations by Delegates**

6:00 – 11:00 p.m. **An Evening for Education: NFU Foundation Fundraising Gala**
(Separate Ticket Required)

Monday, March 4

(All events at the MassMutual Center, unless noted)

8:00 – 5:00 **Registration Open**

8:00 – 4:00 **Exhibits Open**

8:00 – 8:15 **General Session Convenes**

8:15 – 8:30 **Milt Hakel Award Presentation**

8:30 – 9:45 **Speaker Panel: Why You Should Be an Advocate**

Farmers Union works best when members speak up and make their voices heard. Learn the best ways to stay engaged in advocacy opportunities through NFU from those and how to become a member of the Family Farmer Advocacy Network.

Moderator: Mike Stranz, Government Relations Representative, NFU

Panelists: Joe Logan, Past President, Ohio Farmers Union

Chris Studer, Communications and Marketing Director, South Dakota Farmers Union

9:45 – 10:00 **Meritorious Service Award Presentation: Jim Frederickson**

10:00 – 10:30 **Break**

10:30 – 10:40 **Final report of the Rules and Credentials Committee**

10:40 – 11:00 **Meritorious Service Award Presentation: Mel Borton**

11:00 – 11:20 **NYAC Presentations**

11:20 – 12:00 **Speaker (TBD)**

12:00 – 1:30 **Awards Luncheon**

- Welcome remarks
- Invocation
- Membership and Leadership Awards
- PAC Donations

1:45 – 3:00 **Breakout Sessions**

Scaling Up to Meet Demand

As consumer demand grows for locally-produced food and direct-to-consumer products, farmers face the challenge of capitalizing on this opportunity. This breakout will discuss how to grow along with the market – not just by expanding one's own operation but by working with fellow family farmers through cooperatives and other organizations.

Moderator: Andy Kendall, Executive Director, Henry P. Kendall Foundation, Boston, Mass.

Panelists: Marydale Debor, Managing Director, Fresh Advantage, New Haven, Conn.
Regina Beidler, Dairy Farmer and Organic Valley Member, Randolph Center, Vermont
Jamie Moore, Director of Sourcing and Sustainability, Eat'n Park Hospitality Group, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Farm Safety: Why Risk It?

Farming and ranching continues to be one of the most hazardous professions in America. Need proof? Chances are very good you know a family member or neighbor who suffered a serious injury, loss of property or even loss of life due to a farm accident. It could happen to you. Working long hours with heavy equipment, chemicals, physical contact with livestock and working in remote areas are just a few factors that make farming dangerous. Farmers Union is committed to making farm safety a top priority for our members. Agriculture needs to be a safe and healthy way of life for all families. Learn how farm safety issues have affected those who experienced close calls. Their insights will provide you with practical ways to make your operation safer from the ground up.

Moderator: Shane Sickler, President, Dunn County (North Dakota) Farmers Union

Panelists: Representative from the Centers for Disease Control
Rodney Allebach, President/General Manager, Farmers Union Agency, Inc.
Julie Sorensen, PhD, Deputy Director, Northeast Center for Agricultural Health

Ten Things Any Woman in Ag Needs to Know

Worldwide, women are the majority farmers although usually on a smaller scale. Regardless of where they farm, women face common challenges and need access to more information on such topics as legal issues, production and marketing, risk management insurance, and much more. Hear from women who are learning what it takes to earn a living in agriculture, whether they are in a family farm partnership or the sole owner and operator.

Moderator: Sue Carlson, Past President, Wisconsin Farmers Union

Panelists: Deb Conroy, Director, Fairfield and Woods, Denver, Colo.
Beth Hodge, Echo Farm and Echo Farm Pudding, Hinsdale, New Hampshire
Beckie Harkey, General Manager, FUSA Insurance Agency
Alberta Nana Akyaa Akosa, General Manager, National Food and Agricultural Show – Ghana

3:00 – 3:30 **Break**

3:30 – 5:00 Policy Session

- Consideration and Adoption of Policy

5:00 – 6:30 Beginning Farmer Meet-up (Sheraton Hotel)

5:00 – 6:30 Youth and Young Adult Pizza/Ice Cream Social

Free Evening for Convention Attendees

Tuesday, March 5

(All events at the MassMutual Center, unless noted)

8:00 – 4:00 Registration Open

8:00 – 2:00 Exhibits Open

8:00 – 8:30 Policy Committee Introductions

8:30 – 10:00 General Policy Session

- Consideration and Adoption of Bylaws Amendments (if applicable)
- Consideration and Adoption of Special Orders and Policy

10:00 – 10:30 Break in Exhibit Hall

10:30 – 12:00 Consideration and Adoption of Policy

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch

- Speaker
- Santa Fe/RMFU Invitation
- PAC Donations

1:30 – 1:50 NYAC Presentations

1:50 – 3:00 Consideration and Adoption of Policy

2:00 – 3:30 Exhibitor breakdown

3:00 – 3:30 Break

3:30 Consideration and Adoption of Policy

Convention will adjourn following conclusion of Policy Adoption

Board Reorganization following Adjournment

DRAFT