



January 22, 2014

Dear member of the farm bill conference committee:

Thank you for all of your hard work in getting the farm bill to this point in the legislative process. In preparation for the final negotiations leading up to a conference report, I wanted to reiterate National Farmers Union's (NFU) priorities. As such, I am including in this correspondence our farm bill priorities letter that we have earlier shared with you.

As you know, the farm bill has expired twice. U.S. family farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and rural communities have been operating without a farm bill since September 30, 2013. It is critical that the farm bill be passed this month in order to provide certainty for our members.

A great number of issues are affected by the lack of a farm bill. Bankers are now wary of lending to farmers because of policy uncertainty. The early season blizzard in the upper Midwest killed tens of thousands of livestock in October. These producers did not have access to any livestock disaster programs due to the expired programs. Key conservation programs that protect and enhance our soil, air and water quality have also expired.

Once again, thank you for your consideration of NFU's farm bill priorities. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roger Johnson".

Roger Johnson
President

A handwritten note in blue ink that says "Thanks!".

Enclosure