



National Farmers Union

Hard at Work for Family Farmers, Ranchers and Rural America

FARM BILL

- Led more than 1,000 organization coalition calling on Congress to pass new farm bill.
- Successfully urged Congress to include many NFU priorities in 2008 Farm Bill.
- Testified before Congress, on Capitol Hill and during field hearings, in support of a farm bill that returns profitability and creates economic opportunities for rural America.
- Successfully advocated for the first-ever Horticulture & Organics title in the 2008 Farm Bill, providing mandatory funding for programs to assist the nation's specialty crop producers.
- Traveled across the country, listening to producers' concerns for the 2008 Farm Bill and presented findings to Congress.

DISASTER AID

- Successfully urged Congress to include permanent disaster program in new farm bill so ad hoc payments are not the only way to receive disaster relief.
- Successfully led a coalition of organizations to secure \$3 billion in emergency disaster relief for 2005, 2006 and 2007 weather-related losses.

CONSUMER ISSUES

- Served as lead negotiator for mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) supporters in negotiating a deal to include COOL in the 2008 Farm Bill and ensure its implementation by September 2008.
- Partnered with Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and consumer organizations to encourage the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling of meat and dairy products from cloned animals.
- Organized efforts opposing measures that would prohibit dairy farmers from labeling milk as rBGH-free.
- Supported coalition efforts and legislation to ensure that cloned animal products, if allowed to enter the food supply, are properly labeled.

ECONOMY

- Testified before the Joint Economic Committee and the House Small Business Committee concerning increasing food costs and the role of agriculture in reducing the cost of food.
- Testified before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee on financial speculation and its effects on commodity prices.

RURAL AMERICA

- Testified before the House Small Business Committee on the challenges rural Americans face in obtaining healthcare insurance and services.

ENERGY

- Supported expanding research and development dollars for renewable energy technology.
- Successfully supported expanding the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) to require that biofuels production be expanded; and worked to establish a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that requires 25 percent of energy usage to come from renewables by 2025.
- Urged Congress to extend and expand renewable energy tax credits, including permanent extension of the renewable energy production tax credit (PTC).
- Supported incentives for local ownership of renewable energy projects in all forms.
- Testified before the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming and multiple other congressional committees regarding the impact of high energy costs on agricultural producers.

CONSERVATION

- Testified before the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to highlight conservation priorities for the 2008 Farm Bill.
- Urged USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to address problems with Conservation Security Program (CSP) contracts.
- Successfully advocated for legislation that ensured Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments are excluded from self-employment tax, which was made part of the 2008 Farm Bill.

BUDGET, CREDIT AND TAXES

- Led coalition of agriculture, nutrition and conservation organizations urging Congress to ensure the federal budget deficit is not balanced on the backs of farmers, ranchers or rural citizens.
- Successfully opposed federal estate-tax repeal, while working for responsible reform that ensures family farms can be passed to the next generation.

DAIRY

- Successfully urged Congress to continue the Milk Income Loss Compensation (MILC) Program and restore support to the original 2002 levels.
- Urged the FDA to maintain the definition of milk for dairy products.
- Called on USDA to investigate nonfat dry milk price misreporting and indemnification for producers who lost revenue as a result of misreporting.
- Supported the Milk Import Tariff Equity Act preventing continued, unrestricted imports of Milk Protein Concentrates (MPC) and casein products intended for food and animal feed use.

TRADE & INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Helped craft TRADE Act to reverse the free trade agenda and set bench marks for what can and cannot be included in future trade agreements.
- Successfully opposed reauthorization of Trade Promotion Authority and instead advocated for development of an entirely new mechanism for authorizing trade negotiations and agreements.
- Opposed Peru, Columbia, Panama and other trade agreements that continue the failed free trade model.
- Worked with producers around the globe to understand the challenges facing farmers and ranchers worldwide, through participation in International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).
- Presented at the 2008 IFAP World Congress in Warsaw, Poland regarding the importance of renewable energy development and the positive impacts for farmers.

NUTRITION

- Worked with anti-hunger organizations in creating support for 2008 Farm Bill. Supported funding expansion for food aid program within the bill.
- Supported efforts to extend international food aid programs that send donations of American food to impoverished children around the world.
- Supported legislation to increase resources for healthy school lunch programs.

COOPERATIVES & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Urged USDA Rural Development Agency to maintain funding for the Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program and the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service.
- Testified before the House Small Business Committee to highlight the importance of reliable and accessible broadband technology for rural America.
- Called on the House and Senate Judiciary Committees to oppose recommendations of the Antitrust Modernization Commission to eliminate antitrust immunities and exemptions for agricultural cooperatives.
- Hosted farm forestry management and co-op education workshops throughout the country.

LIVESTOCK

- Encouraged the Department of Justice to conduct an investigation into the proposed merger between JBS-Swift, National Beef, Smithfield Beef and Five Rivers Cattle Feeding. The merger would increase concentration in the cattle industry, negatively impacting competition.
- Successfully advocated for establishment of first-ever livestock title in the 2008 Farm Bill to take steps to end the trend of livestock market concentration.
- Served as lead negotiator for ending the ban on interstate shipment of state-inspected meat, included in the 2008 Farm Bill.
- Asked Senate and House Agriculture committees to investigate Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) lack of action in developing remedies for anti-competitive practices.

EDUCATION

- Encouraged consumers to "Eat Fresh, Buy Local" through a national education campaign.
- Awarded seven college scholarships totaling \$5,000
- Provided summer internships to young people in Washington, D.C., and Denver, Colo.
- Hosted 71st Annual All-States Leadership Camp in Bailey, Colo., teaching 80 young adults to become active citizens and leaders.

OTHER ACTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Joined coalition to request the Senate Agriculture committee conduct a hearing into captive shipper concerns and ways to address a lack of competitive rail transportation across the country.
- Supported legislative efforts to prevent USDA from closing or consolidating county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices, included in new farm bill.
- Hosted spring and fall fly-ins, bringing more than 400 farmers and ranchers to Capitol Hill to meet directly with lawmakers.
- Coordinated coalition of agricultural organizations to ensure priorities addressed in global climate change legislation. Establishing a producer-friendly carbon offset program and utilizing expertise of USDA are among priorities.

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