

### **Energy/Climate**

- Co-sponsored the report “Farms Here, Forests There: Tropical Deforestation and U.S. Competitiveness in Agriculture and Timber” with Avoided Deforestation Partners.
- Testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding water quality monitoring in the Upper Mississippi River watershed.
- Participated in Capitol Hill briefings on renewable energy, including community wind and biofuels production.
- Successfully urged Congress to extend renewable energy tax credits (VEETC, Biodiesel).
- Successfully lobbied Congress to extend the 1603 Treasury Grant Program for wind energy and other renewables.
- Helped secure a waiver to increase the allowable ethanol content of gasoline to 15 percent for model year 2007 and newer vehicles.
- Submitted comments on the Biomass Crop Assistance Program final rule; EPA’s proposed Pesticide Spray Drift regulations; EPA Tailoring Rule; EPA Call for Information on Biogenic Carbon; EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPES) General Permit; and EPA’s proposed Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations.
- Supported Renewable Electricity Standard legislation requiring utilities to use 15 percent renewable energy.
- Supported funding for farm bill energy and conservation programs.

### **Food Safety**

- Successfully advocated for the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2010, which safeguards our national food supply by allocating resources to match the risk levels of food production methods.

- Awarded five college scholarships totaling \$6,000.
- Provided internships to young people in NFU’s Washington, D.C., office.
- Hosted the 74th Annual All-States Leadership Camp at the Farmers Union Education Center in Bailey, Colo., at which young adults from around the country learned leadership skills.
- Laid foundation for the 75th Anniversary Celebration of All-States Camp to be held July 16, 2011.
- Developed comprehensive curriculum for youth in grades 1-12 that focused on leading by serving.
- Advocated for changes to the federal education funding formula to end discrimination against rural school districts.
- Helped nearly 100 students from around the country gain a thorough understanding of cooperative businesses during the College Conference on Cooperatives.
- Developed partnerships to expand our international outreach by sending members to other countries through the Farmer-to-Farmer Exchange program.
- Expanded learning opportunities for NFU’s National Youth Advisory Council through leadership training.
- Prepared framework for a series of adult educational curriculum and learning activities.



### **National Farmers Union**

20 F Street NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202-554-1600  
Fax: 202-554-1654  
[www.nfu.org](http://www.nfu.org)



# Hard at Work



*National Farmers Union  
accomplishments in 2010*

### **Biotechnology**

- Served as lead organization in working towards creating a legally binding process for the reproduction of biotech traits by other organizations as the patent expires on those products.
- Led discussions at the Department of Justice about the generic production of biotech traits and the significance of having a process in place to maintain competition.

### **Dairy**

- Presented dairy policy to the Secretary of Agriculture's Dairy Industry Advisory Council and attended their meetings.
- Urged USDA to increase dairy support prices.
- Worked with USDA to develop a new price discovery system that does not include the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.
- Worked directly with the White House to propose solutions to major credit, price and price discovery problems within the dairy industry.

### **Organizational Development**

- Assisted New England Farmers Union in securing a \$200,000 USDA grant, growing their affiliate program and doubling membership.
- Established NFU presence at a multitude of national events, conventions, and trade shows.
- Promoted the relationship between Wisconsin Farmers Union and insurance partner General Casualty, resulting in membership growth and additional revenue.
- NFU formalized its strategic partnership with OwnEnergy, a leading community wind developer.
- Worked with a core group of New York farmers on establishing a strong Farmers Union presence.



### **Nutrition**

- Supported reauthorization of school lunch and other food and nutrition programs for children.
- Successfully lobbied for the appropriation of \$40 million in grant money for farm to school programs, standards for healthier school meals and snacks, and an increased federal reimbursement rate for school lunches.
- Supported legislation that would increase access to food on weekends and holidays for children from low-income families.
- Supported legislation to increase food donations by expanding and extending the enhanced tax deduction for charitable contributions of food.
- Urged Congress to increase funding for Title II of the Food for Peace Act to send emergency donations of additional American food to countries around the world.

### **Organic Agriculture**

- Opposed congressional efforts to repeal the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program.
- A Farmers Union member was named to the National Organic Standards Board, which assists in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production.



### **Health Care**

- Successfully lobbied for comprehensive health care legislation that will increase rural Americans' access to affordable health insurance.
- Urged Congress to repeal onerous IRS Form 1099 reporting requirements for businesses.
- Supported legislation that would repeal an exemption for health insurance companies from antitrust laws and increase competition in the health insurance industry.

### **Farm Bill**

- Testified twice in front of the House Committee on Agriculture and Senate Agriculture Committee to outline the challenges facing agriculture and to offer suggestions for ways to strengthen the farm safety net in the next farm bill.
- Met with every member's office in both the House and Senate (535 offices) to discuss Farmers Union priorities for the 2012 Farm Bill.

### **Taxes**

- Lobbied Congress to pass a fiscally responsible estate tax that would have included an exemption of \$4 million per individual \$8 million for a couple with a progressively higher rate starting at 45 percent.
- Led a coalition of ten agriculture organizations urging Congress to take action to prevent the estate tax from reverting to damaging levels.



### **Livestock**

- Successfully secured witness invitations to four USDA/DOJ workshops on competition focused on commodities, dairy, livestock and margins.
- Led in the development of the new GIPSA rules to protect independent livestock producers and increase competition.
- Led a coalition of organizations demanding more oversight of the beef check-off program.
- Multiple Farmers Union members were appointed to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, which contracts with organizations to implement programs of promotion, research, consumer and industry information, foreign marketing, and producer communications.
- A Farmers Union member was appointed to a committee to write the new rules for Mandatory Price Reporting in the pork industry.