

RURAL LIFE
Successfully advocated for funding for beginning farmer and rancher outreach, focusing in particular on returning veterans, and advocated for increased funding for farm bill rural development programs

Collaborated with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on efforts to improve the safety of children on farms

Raised more than \$130,000 for Feeding America to support food banks in rural communities

Successfully led the U.S. Postal Service to reverse its plan to end Saturday delivery after learning the disproportionately adverse effect it would have on rural Americans

Joined other members of the Agriculture Workforce Coalition in successfully negotiating farmworker provisions included in Senate-passed immigration reform legislation

Successfully nominated several Farmers Union members for membership on the Secretary of Agriculture’s Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
Enjoyed a 72.5 percent success rate for candidates supported by NFU’s Political Action Committee, NATFARMPAC

MEDIA OUTREACH
President Roger Johnson and NFU staff participated in numerous television, radio, print and online interviews advocating the issues most important to NFU members



Beginning Farmer Institute participants gained firsthand experience during a session in Minnesota



Farmers Union leaders at the WFO General Assembly in Japan

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP
Expanded international outreach by sending members to do volunteer work in Africa through the Farmer-to-Farmer Exchange program

Continued building the World Farmers Organisation (WFO), with NFU Vice President of International Relations Robert Carlson holding the office of president. Membership doubled from 28 to 63 in 2013

Helped draft an international trade policy on agriculture, which was adopted by the WFO at the 2013 General Assembly

A Women Farmers Committee was formed at WFO with NFU leadership to empower women farmers and recognize their role in family farming. The Committee held a highly successful Rural Women’s Conference in Lusaka, Zambia

Carlson represented farmers at many international meetings to talk about the use of biofuels, climate change and farm production, global agricultural research, sustainable agriculture and other topics.

Carlson attended the World Trade Organization Public Forum, and participated in many Food and Agriculture Organization missions

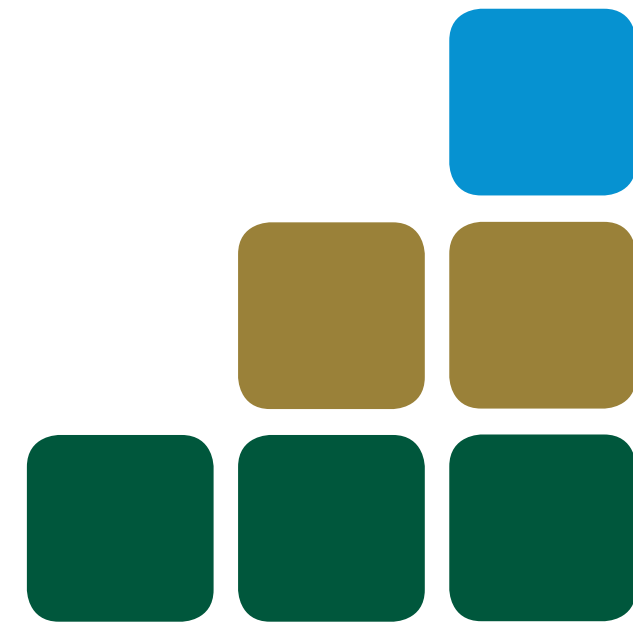


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HARD AT WORK

A REVIEW OF NFU’S MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2013



MEMBERSHIP

Introduced several new value-added member benefits with easy on-line signup

Forged new partnership with Hastings Mutual in Ohio to offer discounted farm insurance to members

Launched an email campaign to increase awareness of Farmers Union and inviting people to join and learn more

Provided member records management services for 12 state organizations



Young leaders at NFU's All-States Leadership Camp

EDUCATION

Held Beginning Farmer Institute which helps develop leadership and advocacy skills for new and transitioning farmers

Held NFU Women's Conference, a national education program with a focus on risk management skills and leadership development

Held annual All-States Leadership Camp, where 60 young adults learned leadership skills and the value of cooperatives

More than 100 students gained understanding of cooperative businesses during the annual NFU College Conference on Cooperatives

Provided six young people internships in NFU's Washington, D.C., office

Developed comprehensive curriculum for youth in grades 1 to 12 and adults that focused on "Building Ourselves, Building Our Lives."

Provided learning opportunities for NFU's National Youth Advisory Council through leadership training and visits to Washington, D.C.

Awarded college scholarships totaling \$6,000 to outstanding young members

FARM BILL

Successfully advocated for a farm bill draft that passed the House and Senate that included permanent disaster programs, better risk management tools, mandatory funding for renewable energy programs, and conservation compliance requirements

Visited offices of all 535 members of Congress through grassroots participation to discuss Farmers Union priorities for the next farm bill

More than 250 Capitol Hill meetings were conducted by NFU staff specifically on the farm bill

Successfully fought against a misguided attempt to extend the current farm bill and further delay passage of a new, comprehensive five-year bill

Garnered the president's public support for a new five-year farm bill

CONSUMERS

Successfully advocated for a more accurate and informative Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) standard for meat, poultry and seafood in the face of legal and legislative challenges by meatpacker, processor, and foreign interests

Was granted the ability to help defend USDA's COOL regulations in court from unwarranted legal attacks by meatpackers

Joined partner organizations to generate more than 35,000 signatures on a petition to the Secretary of Agriculture in support of COOL

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Worked with biotech industry on an agreement that outlines a process for pending patent expiration of agricultural biotech traits to ensure farmers access to more affordable generic genetically modified seed



NFU members at the Fall Legislative Fly-In

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Strongly defended the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) from attacks by opposing organizations, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and members of Congress

Led a grassroots letter-writing campaign to urge for strong biofuel production targets

Held a press conference on U.S. Capitol grounds with musician and renewable energy advocate Neil Young and Sens. Harry Reid and Debbie Stabenow to show support for the RFS

Advocated for farmer-owned renewable energy projects

Continued to push for sensible solutions to climate change through public meetings with members of Congress and conference presentations across the country



Neil Young, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, NFU President Roger Johnson and Sen. Harry Reid at an NFU press conference on the RFS

TRADE

Strongly advocated for maintaining COOL requirements

Continued to work with the office of the U.S. Trade Representative to improve the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement in the interest of domestic sugar and dairy farmers

Advocated for family farm-friendly trade positions as a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Advisory Committee for Trade

Continued to support key principles of the TRADE Act to be included in all free trade agreements, including TPP



Wisconsin Farmers Union members on the U.S. Capitol steps

SPECIALTY CROPS

Advocated for policies that help improve risk management opportunities for specialty crop and organic farmers

Raised concerns about proposed food safety regulations' adverse effect on family farmers by submitting comments on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY

Successfully lobbied the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to include a supply management provision and family-sized farm incentives in their draft versions of a dairy program overhaul

Fought for implementation of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration's (GIPSA) proposed rule to protect family farmers and ranchers from the abuses of meatpackers and processors

Formed a beef industry checkoff group to reform the beef checkoff system

Successfully nominated several Farmers Union members for membership on the Cattlemen's Beef Board

CONSERVATION

Successfully advocated for federal conservation programs with robust funding

Supported legislation that would both protect the environment and provide regulatory certainty for farmers using pesticides

Spoke at various conventions, conferences and panel discussions around the country on the importance of conservation programs to the long-term vitality of the family farm