



Continued to lead on efforts to reform the beef checkoff

Successfully lobbied to provide dairy farmers with margin protection insurance. Included within the program are reduced premiums for small and medium sized family farms for the first two years of the program

Supported implementation of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration's (GIPSA) proposed rule to protect family farmers and ranchers from unfair practices and fought against attempts to gut the legislation through the appropriations process

SPECIALTY CROPS

Weighed in on proposed food safety regulations' impacts on family farmers by submitting comments on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

Successfully advocated for robust specialty crop provisions including \$800 million for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative

RURAL LIFE

Successfully pushed Congress to extend important tax credits for farmers including the bonus depreciation credit (Sec. 179) and the enhanced deductions for donating conservation easements and food inventory



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



World Farmers' Organisation Global Dialogue on Family Farming  
NATFARMPAC  
Secured a 67 percent success rate through the difficult 2014 election cycle

Contributed \$26,000 to successful candidates, or 56 percent of total contributions made to active campaigns

MISCELLANEOUS

Worked with Congress and the Surface Transportation Board to address rail issues in the upper Midwest

Advocated to support nutrition programs in the Farm Bill, operating as one of the only agriculture groups to publicly support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

MEDIA OUTREACH

President Roger Johnson, key NFU staff and member spokespersons continue to enjoy widespread coverage in broadcast, print and social media. NFU has maintained a steady drumbeat of positive messages about the Renewable Fuel Standard, Country-of-Origin Labeling, trade, the beef checkoff and other issues of importance to family farmers.

While maintaining a steady presence on the airwaves, NFU has also had published guest opinion pieces recently in Politico, Fort Worth Star Telegram, Omaha World-Herald, Billings Gazette, Agri-Pulse, Sioux Falls Argus Leader, and Great Falls Tribune. NFU puts out several publications monthly that apprise members and the media about key issues in Washington and areas of growing concern to family farmers.

HARD AT WORK

A REVIEW OF NFU'S MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2014



NATIONAL FARMERS UNION  
20 F STREET NW, SUITE 300  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001  
202.554.1600  
WWW.NFU.ORG  
INFO@NFUDC.ORG





**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING**  
 NFU was the U.S. National Committee Chair for the United Nations International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)

On a global level, NFU represented the United States at meetings focused on IYFF in Abu Dhabi, Quebec and Rome

NFU designed and implemented a focused monthly campaign around family farming and its impact on the United States and the world



*NFU's Beginning Farmers Institute tours a dairy farm in Minnesota*

**MEMBERSHIP**

NFU continues to place an emphasis on growing and enhancing our membership in order to thrive as an organization well into the future

Strategic plans were developed and/or updated in 10 states and within NFU as a continued effort to focus the work of each organization on top priorities

A regional division of Farmers Union was established in the Northwest, which includes the states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington

More than 500 new members joined in 2014, through the partnership between NFU and Hastings Mutual Insurance Company in the states of Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin

NFU held its 112th Anniversary Convention March 4-7, 2014, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with more than 500 family farmers, ranchers and fishermen from across the country in attendance. The convention continues to be the cornerstone membership event of the organization.

**EDUCATION**

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

Held NFU Women's Conference, a national education event for 45 participants with a focus on risk management skills and leadership development

Held annual 78th All-States Leadership Camp, where 65 young adults learned leadership skills and more about the cooperative business model

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

More than 135 students gained understanding of cooperative businesses during the annual NFU College Conference on Cooperatives

Provided seven young people internships in NFU's Washington, D.C., office and NFU's education center in Colorado

Developed comprehensive curriculum for youth in grades 1 to 12 and adults that focused on "Farming Means a World of Good," with a focus on the International Year of Family Farming

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



*2014 NFU Women's Conference group in Clearwater Beach, Florida*

Held fifth "Evening for Education" gala fundraiser to generate funds for the NFU Foundation and its education programs

**FARM BILL**

Successfully advocated for a Farm Bill draft that was signed into law and 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 fly-in participation to discuss Farmers Union priorities

More than 250 Capitol Hill meetings were conducted by NFU staff specifically on the Farm Bill



*Leader Nancy Pelosi receiving one of the 40 NFU Golden Triangle awards given out in September 2014*

**BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Worked with USDA in an effort to harmonize international frameworks that approve biotech traits to ensure uninterrupted access to global markets across different countries

**ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Demanded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) address problems calculating annual Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volume targets and protected the RFS from legislative changes

Instructed EPA on how to make changes to the definition of "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) to protect the interests of family farmers



*NFU President Roger Johnson at the U.S. embassy in Ghana*

Helped secure \$250 million in mandatory funding and \$100 million in discretionary funding for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

**TRADE**

Continued to work with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to support Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) throughout the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute process

Advocated against increased importation from countries with histories of foot-and-mouth disease to protect U.S. family farmers from devastating impacts

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Advocated for a Farm Bill that contained a strong safety net. The final bill contained new crop insurance products for diversified family farms, tools for crops in drought-prone regions, and commodity programs that ensure farmers are protected when crop yields or prices falter.

**LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY**

Successfully advocated for livestock disasters programs in the Farm Bill

Informed Congress on the state of the livestock Industry through testimony