

Family Farming and Trade Policy 2016 Special Order of Business

The current attitude towards trade agreements demonstrated by U.S. negotiators does not prioritize the interests of family farmers. Trade negotiators consistently use agriculture as bait to achieve favorable trade agreements for other sectors of the economy.

American family farmers sell their products in a global marketplace, which is dominated by a small number of multinational firms. The deeply flawed trade agenda has opened domestic markets to cheap, often low-quality food, fuel and fiber products that have created a huge trade deficit. Not enough emphasis is placed upon the huge trade deficit the United States has amassed every year for the past forty years. In 2015, the total trade deficit totaled \$531.5 billion, representing a three percent drag on our GDP. Estimates by economists state that eliminating the entire U.S. trade deficit would create 6.3 million jobs.

International trade is an important part of successful family farming in the United States, but trade is not an end unto itself. In order for greater economic prosperity to come to U.S. agriculture and the broader economy, our national trade deficit must be addressed.

NFU supports rescinding Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) so Congress has the right to review and amend all trade agreements.

NFU supports the federal government conducting a formal and thorough analysis of current agricultural trade agreements to determine their success at meeting their promised goals before any new trade agreements are negotiated or proposed.

NFU opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership as it currently stands because it does not address trade imbalances caused by currency manipulation and it follows the same failed blueprint as past trade agreements.