



Partner Toolkit: Climate Change Petition

On October 13, 2016, NFU initiated a petition to Congress to build the climate resilience of our food system. This is a sentiment shared by family farmers and consumers alike. Farmers and ranchers are on the front lines of climate change, and consumers stand to be affected greatly – whether through food prices or quality – by the adverse effects climate change is having and will continue to have on our food system.

NFU is encouraging our members, our friends in farm and consumer groups, and the public to sign the petition. We ask that you help us spread the word to urge Congress to act on climate change for the benefit of our food system!

Ways you can help:

- ❖ Share on your social media platforms and/or newsletters
- ❖ Share in a short article for your publication(s)

In this toolkit you'll find:

- ❖ [Climate Change Petition Talking Points](#)
- ❖ [Sample Social Media Posts](#)
- ❖ [Climate Petition Graphic](#)

Thank you very much for any help you can provide. If you have any questions or suggestions, or would like a copy of the NFU logo for your communications, please contact Andrew Jerome at ajerome@nfudc.org.



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Climate Change Petition Talking Points

Climate Change and the Food System

- The U.S. is already experiencing an increased incidence of extreme weather events that affect our food system.
- Climate change is very likely to affect global, regional, and local food security by disrupting food availability, decreasing access to food, and making utilization more difficult.
- Climate change risks extend beyond agricultural production to other elements of global food systems that are critical for food security, including the processing, storage, transportation, and consumption of food.

Climate Change and the Food Consumer

- Production disruptions due to climate change lead to local availability limitations and price increases, interrupted transport conduits, and diminished food safety.
- The type and price of food imports from other regions are likely to change. Export demands placed upon U.S. producers and the transportation, processing, and storage systems that enable global trade will also change. Demand for food and other types of assistance may increase, as may demand for advanced technologies to manage changing conditions.
- The global and domestic poor are at greatest risk of decreased food security.

Climate Change and Agriculture

- Increased weather volatility associated with climate change results in fewer workable days, increased potential for soil erosion, and increased crop insurance claims.
- For each 1 degree Celsius temperature increase, grain yields decline by about 5 percent.
- Rising temperatures and increased extreme weather events like drought or intense precipitation can affect pollination, plant growth and size, plant reproduction, and the amount of water required by plants. Perennial crops unable to reach their chilling temperature requirements produce reduced yields and can be adversely affected by





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fluctuating winter temperatures which cause early budding or blooms that are susceptible to frost damage.

- Livestock production systems are vulnerable to temperature stresses. An animal's inability to adjust its metabolic rate to cope with temperature extremes can lead to gestational complications, stunted development, reduced productivity and, in extreme cases, death.
- Increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events places livestock in immediate peril.

Mitigating Climate Change through Agriculture

- USDA's building blocks strategy aims to "reduce net emissions and enhance carbon sequestration by over 120 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MMTCO₂e) per year – about 2% of economy-wide net greenhouse emissions – by 2025. That's the equivalent of taking 25 million cars off the road, or offsetting the emissions produced by powering nearly 11 million homes last year."
- Soil health enhancements can mitigate flooding anticipated from increased extreme precipitation.
- Precision nutrient applications improve surface water quality, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions





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Sample Social Media Posts

Link to the Petition: <http://bit.ly/NFUClimatePetition>

Link to NFU Facebook Post:

<https://www.facebook.com/nationalfarmersunion/posts/10154662083835798>

Link to NFU Twitter Post:

<https://twitter.com/NFUDC/status/786683955512766464>

Twitter

- Join NFU in asking Congress to help farmers & ranchers #ActOnClimate in the next #FarmBill. Sign the petition today: <http://bit.ly/NFUClimatePetition> {graphic}
- Tell Congress to #ActOnClimate to protect our food system: <http://bit.ly/NFUClimatePetition> #climatechange {graphic}
- Our food system and vulnerable populations are at risk due to climate change. Tell Congress to act: <http://bit.ly/NFUClimatePetition> {graphic}
- Food prices and availability stand to be affected by #climatechange. Tell Congress to act: <http://bit.ly/NFUClimatePetition> {graphic}

Facebook/Newsletter

- Our food system is incredibly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. From the farmers and ranchers that produce the food we eat, to the retailers that aggregate and distribute the food, to the consumers that rely on healthy, safe and affordable food, all of us stand to be affected by the enormous challenges posed to food security by climate change.

We can, however, engage all stakeholders in the food system in the battle to adapt to and help mitigate the effects of climate change, and that is through the upcoming Farm Bill - our nation's largest farm, conservation and food policy package.

Please join us as we petition Congress to enhance our climate resiliency and mitigate climate change through the Farm Bill. Take





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action today and tell Congress to act on climate for the sake of domestic and global food security. Farmers and consumers alike rely on it.

<http://bit.ly/NFUClimatePetition>





National
Farmers
Union

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Climate Change Petition Graphics



Tell Congress:

Act on Climate for Our Food System!

#ActOnClimate

Sign the petition today.

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