

EDUCATION

- Awarded five college scholarships totaling \$6,000 to outstanding young members
- Provided young people the opportunity to participate in Farmers Union educational, cooperative and legislative activities through internships in NFU's Washington, D.C., office
- Hosted the 75th 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 and the value of cooperatives
- Held a 75th All-States Leadership Camp reunion and celebration at the Bailey, Colo., Farmers Union Education Center
- Developed comprehensive curriculum for youth in grades 1-12 and adults that focused on healthy nutritional choices
- Helped nearly 100 students from around the country gain a thorough understanding of cooperative businesses during the College Conference on Cooperatives
- Expanded learning opportunities for NFU's National Youth Advisory Council through leadership training and participation in NFU's events in Washington, D.C.
- Selected outstanding farmers and ranchers from across the country to participate in NFU's inaugural Beginning Farmer Institute, helping new farmers develop the leadership, financial literacy and advocacy skills they need to be successful



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Spoke at a Broadband Breakfast event in support of broadband access for rural Americans
- Sent a letter to Congressional Agriculture Committee leaders urging them to work with the FCC to ensure spectrum is available in rural America for both broadband internet access and precision GPS

NEW MEMBER EDUCATION

- Met with new members of Congress and educated them on Farmers Union priorities and discussed the upcoming Farm Bill

MEMBERSHIP

- Approved Hawaii to become the 33rd organized state within Farmers Union
- Launched California Farmers Union Service Association to provide insurance for members
- Reached agreement to provide Farmers Union members with a 20 percent discount at approximately 6,000 Wyndham Hotel locations across the country
- Continued to offer Farmers Union members discounts on Avis and Budget rental cars

TRADE

- Testified before the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee in opposition to then-pending free-trade agreements with Columbia, Panama and South Korea and participated in Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations
- Successfully lobbied President Obama to loosen travel restrictions with Cuba
- Urged Senate to pass legislation that would allow direct transactions between U.S. and Cuban financial institutions

COMMODITIES AND FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION (CFTC)

- Lobbied leadership of the House Financial Services and Agriculture Committees in opposition to legislation that would delay implementation and enforcement of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law
- Submitted comments urging Commodity Futures Trading Commission to curb excessive speculation in commodity markets
- Sent a letter to Senate and House leadership urging them to increase funding of CFTC to ensure proper implementation of Dodd-Frank



INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

- Played a critical role in the formation of the World Farmers Organization (WFO), a new international agriculture organization, and successfully advocated for the election of former North Dakota Farmers Union President Robert Carlson as WFO's first president
- Expanded international outreach by sending members to Senegal to teach farmers best practices through the Farmer-to-Farmer Exchange program

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HARD AT WORK

*National Farmers Union
accomplishments in 2011*



MARKET-DRIVEN INVENTORY SYSTEM

- Funded and released a study by the University of Tennessee that found a system of farmer-owned reserves and set-asides could provide similar protection to farmers and ranchers at half the cost of the current safety net

FARM BILL

- Urged Congress to support the priorities of family farmers and ranchers in the 2012 Farm Bill, including an effective safety net, an improved dairy program, strong renewable energy programs, a commitment to conservation, outreach to beginning farmers and incentives for local foods production
- Visited offices of all 535 members of Congress through grassroots participation to discuss Farmers Union priorities for the next farm bill
- Hosted multiple farm bill information sessions for Farmers Union members across the country
- Testified numerous times before Congress on farm bill priorities

CONSUMERS

- Served on the board of directors of the Consumer Federation of America and National Consumers League
- Addressed participants in the Consumer Federation of America's annual food policy forum
- Urged Congress to protect and expand federal nutrition programs that serve needy families
- Defended the mandatory Country-Of-Origin Labeling law in the face of trade disputes from Canada and Mexico



DAIRY

- Lobbied the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to include family farm and supply management provisions in their proposal to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
- Sent a letter to President Barack Obama, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Attorney General Eric Holder, and Senate and House Agriculture Committee leadership urging them to address dairy market competition and price depression issues
- Participated in a national dairy meeting about Foundation for the Future, a plan that would remove current dairy policies and replace them with a new and untested insurance program
- Participated in a national meeting about legislation proposed to overhaul the dairy safety net



LIVESTOCK

- Held a press event marking the one-year anniversary of the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA) proposed rule and calling for its implementation
- Participated in a White House call-in campaign to highlight the need for the completion of the GIPSA rule to protect family farmers and ranchers from the abuses of packers and processors
- Testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee about the state of livestock in America and argued for the implementation of the GIPSA rule
- Held four briefings on Capitol Hill with livestock producers to educate Congressional staff about the need for a strong GIPSA rule



ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Collaborated with the Ecologic Institute to tour renewable energy facilities in Europe and briefed Senate and House staff on the resulting NFU report entitled, "Harvesting Renewable Energy: German-American Lessons Learned on Rural Development"
- Testified before members of Congress regarding the 2011 Missouri River floods and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers management plans
- Submitted comments to the EPA regarding proposed guidance for identifying waters to be protected by the federal Clean Water Act and its potential implications for family farmers
- Briefed Senate staff on the American Security and Freedom Fuels Act
- Lobbied Congress to remove the permitting process that would require farmers and ranchers who wish to apply pesticides to obtain a permit under the Clean Water Act, which would be duplicative, as anyone wishing to apply pesticides must already receive a permit
- Led a NFU Renewable Energy Tour through South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin to highlight successful on-farm projects
- Addressed attendees of both the Windustry and American Wind Energy Association's annual conferences, as well as the Biogas East, Midwest and West conferences
- Urged Congress to oppose changes to the Renewable Fuels Standard
- Supported legislation that supports the development of community-owned wind projects that benefit rural landowners and communities



ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CONTINUED)

- Joined a coalition of farm, fisherman and environmental organizations in a letter to President Obama opposing a proposed open ocean aquaculture operation in federal waters
- Successfully advocated for a delay in the building of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, citing the harm potential spills would cause to the Ogallala Aquifer and sand hills of Nebraska
- Urged House and Senate leadership to eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies for oil companies

CONSERVATION

- Sponsored the National Agricultural Landscapes Forum in Washington, D.C. The forum was held as part of the Resource Conservation Assessment under the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act and brought together stakeholders to discuss issues of significance for soil and water conservation
- Spoke at the 66th Annual International Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society in Washington, D.C.
- Co-sponsored and spoke at the National Ag Drainage Water Management Summit to raise awareness of available technology and techniques available to help with drainage issues

BIOTECHNOLOGY

- Worked with biotech industry leaders, the Department of Justice and USDA to discuss pending patent expiration of agricultural biotech traits and ensure farmers are able to access and use more affordable generic products
- Engaged in the continued development of the Secretary of Agriculture's framework for coexistence of genetically modified and organic crops