

Family farmers, ranchers, consumers, and our communities all benefit from a strong and resilient farm and food system. The farm bill helps to ensure our agricultural economies and communities thrive. The following policies and provisions should be included or addressed in the 2023 Farm Bill.

## ***Competition***

NFU supports establishing a dedicated competition title in the next farm bill, which should include Fairness for Farmers priorities, including:

- Address inadequate cattle market price discovery and transparency.
- Establish an “Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters” at USDA to ensure strong enforcement of the Packers & Stockyards Act (P&S Act).
- Protect ongoing P&S Act rulemakings, including addressing meatpacker retaliation against growers.
- Reinstate mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL).
- Improve the Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) Act to ensure consistent and complete data availability.
- Ensure checkoff programs are producer controlled and regularly reviewed.
- Support the expansion of diverse, local, and regional market opportunities in farm and food supply chains, including in production, processing, distribution, and retail.

## ***Farm Programs and Risk Management***

### ***Farm Programs***

- Increase loan rates and other price-based triggers to reflect higher commodity prices and input costs.
- Establish a dual enrollment option for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC).
- Authorize a voluntary update of base acres and yields.

### ***Permanent Disaster Assistance***

- Expand and enhance permanent disaster assistance programs to address implementation delays and inequitable or incomplete support associated with ad hoc disaster assistance.
- Establish a permanent disaster assistance program that supplements crop insurance indemnities when widespread disasters occur.
- Avoid undermining existing risk management products.

### ***Crop Insurance***

- Make risk management products more accessible for specialty crop producers and diverse cropping systems, including through improvement of Whole Farm Revenue Protection.
- Expand the availability of market risk protection policies for more crops and production methods, similar to Livestock Risk Protection (LRP).

## *Dairy*

- Support dairy growth management principles to stem the loss of family dairy farms.
- Strengthen the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program, which, with improvements, can serve as a useful risk management tool.

## *Climate, Conservation, and Energy*

The next farm bill should give farmers the tools and resources they need to address climate change through conservation programs and by expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities. Key provisions include:

- Increase funding for voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs and conservation technical assistance.
- Expand incentives for farmers to adopt climate mitigation and adaptation practices.
- Provide crop insurance discounts to farmers for planting cover crops or for using other conservation practices that increase resiliency or decrease risk.
- Build on programs that support biofuels infrastructure development.
- Support and improve the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).
- Maintain a strong Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
- Increase research investments that support on-farm climate mitigation and adaptation.

## *Additional Priorities*

NFU supports increasing farm bill funding to ensure we comprehensively meet the needs of family farmers, ranchers, and our communities. Additional important priorities and reforms include:

- Maintain a strong farm bill nutrition title that supports food and nutrition security, reduces hunger in our communities, and expands access to locally and regionally produced farm products.
- Ensure beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers are supported by all farm programs.
- Expand and fund the Farm and Ranch Assistance Network (FRSAN) to support the mental and behavioral health of farmers, ranchers, farmworkers, and our communities.
- Expand and fund the Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) program.
- Address ongoing staffing shortages at USDA and require USDA to streamline program applications and procedures.