



FAMILY FARMING and THE FARM SAFETY NET 2024 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A strong farm safety net and robust risk management tools are critical to protecting family farmers and ranchers from market and weather volatility. Over the last several years, the existing farm safety net has proven inadequate in the face of market disruptions and natural disasters. We appreciate Congress's repeated efforts to provide emergency relief to offset those losses. However, ad hoc programs are not a sustainable solution.

Farm safety net programs and crop insurance help farmers and ranchers manage two different types of risk. Counter-cyclical programs help farmers stay afloat during low price cycles. Crop insurance mitigates the risk of yield losses caused by adverse weather and natural disasters. It is critical that the next farm bill strengthens both farm safety net programs and crop insurance.

National Farmers Union (NFU) supports increasing price-based triggers for Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), and marketing assistance loans to reflect higher input costs. We also support an ARC/PLC dual enrollment option that would ensure all farmers have access to equitable relief in the face of market or weather volatility.

NFU supports efforts to improve the affordability of higher levels of crop insurance coverage and supplemental coverage with multiple options to reflect the needs of different regions and operations. Crop insurance improvements will mitigate the need for ad hoc disaster programs and provide farmers with more consistent, equitable and predictable relief.

NFU also supports efforts to improve the availability and affordability of crop insurance for specialty crop growers, livestock producers, diversified and small-scale agricultural operations, and producers in large counties. We support improvements to Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) with a streamlined on-ramp process for producers who utilize the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). We urge continued efforts to improve disaster programs and insurance options for livestock producers. We also urge Congress to explore sub-county-level coverage for producers in large or geographically diverse counties. We believe commission rates for insurance products should adequately reflect the cost and risk of marketing those products to ensure equitable access to risk management for all producers.

Finally, NFU urges Congress to pass a farm bill that is fiscally responsible and balances conservation, safety net and crop insurance needs. We believe improvements to farm bill programs should be targeted to family farms and ranches. We urge Congress to consider proposals that would mitigate or offset the cost of these improvements through subsidy limits or eligibility restrictions.