



FAMILY FARMING and OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 2025 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

During times of low commodity prices and high input costs, federal programs meant to maintain a farm safety net, ensure competitive markets, provide access to credit, protect against disease and pests, and support the stewardship of our natural resources through conservation are vital to the survival of family farms and ranches, and our communities.

Farmers need immediate action to offset the losses in commodity prices due to tariffs placed on longstanding trading partners, including China, Mexico, and Canada. Losses should be estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture Chief Economist. These actions would include direct disaster payments, and efforts to increase domestic uses to return commodity prices closer to the cost of production. Our administration should immediately consider banning foreign used cooking oil imports and rapidly develop sustainable aviation fuel, along with any other means possible to expand usage of commodities that are in excess of supply due to the administration's tariffs efforts.

Programs that provide a dependable social safety net, consumer protections, safe roads and infrastructure, trustworthy law and order, reliable energy, scientific research, and accurate weather information are vital services and necessary for national security and stability. It is the role and responsibility of our government to carry out these programs.

National Farmers Union (NFU) recognizes that some federal programs and policies are in need of review and reform. Inadequate federal workforce staffing levels for field offices, inconsistent funding, and bureaucratic red tape have led to a backlog that impacts the productivity of our farms, ranches, and communities.

We strongly oppose any concentration of power in the executive branch. We support the goal of improving efficiency and effectiveness of the federal government being vigorously pursued across all branches of the government in strict accordance with the checks and balances embedded in the constitution. Efficiency and program performance should be improved through a thoughtful, measured approach. It is critical to retain the qualified federal workforce necessary to provide services while maintaining institutional knowledge.

We are concerned about Executive actions, including widespread layoffs and field office closures, funding delays and denials, and setbacks in disbursing disaster aid, even when temporary, which disrupt vital support for our agricultural producers and prevent the timely delivery of services. We oppose the imposition of wholesale, non-targeted tariffs, which are likely to elicit damaging reciprocal tariffs from our trading partners. All these actions have detrimental effects that reverberate throughout our communities and endanger our national stability.

We urge Congress to revise the budget process to address the true deficit problem and to provide realistic reduction goals. We support the historic separation of powers between our branches of government as laid out in the U.S. Constitution and urge Congress to defend its power to create and fund regulatory agencies and critical government programs.

NFU calls on the administration, Congress, and the Judicial Branch to create productive solutions to build a more effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible federal government that supports our nation's family farmers and ranchers so they can continue to provide food, fiber, and fuel to hard working Americans.