



## **FAMILY FARMING and the ROOTS OF OUR DEMOCRACY 2026 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

We believe our grassroots are the anchor that holds us together, not only as an organization but as a society. For farmers to have a voice, we must be active and vocal in our local communities, at the national level, and everywhere in between. Farmers – all farmers – must come together to cooperate and be heard if we are to best set public policy. To sustain our democracy, we must engage in conversations and deliberations with one another, especially when we disagree. Those conversations help make informed decisions when making policy that is effective for farmers and ranchers.

Much like we strive to be excellent stewards of land and water, plants and animals, and all other resources entrusted to our care, we must give equal care to the stewardship of our democracy.

We must encourage each other to engage locally in our democratic processes, whether it is participating in school board meetings, running for local elections, or exercising the right to vote. Cultivating community is as much a part of the democratic process as exercising our civic duty. Local chapters must lean into creating spaces for neighbors to connect and support one another now more than ever. Farmers Union members have the incredible power to build, unite, and engage communities across the United States.

To paraphrase the late USDA Secretary and U.S. Vice President Henry Wallace, “If we put our trust in the common sense of common people and ‘with malice toward none and charity for all’ go forward on the great adventure of making political, economic, and social democracy a practical reality, we shall not fail.”

With all of this in mind, we recommit ourselves to NFU’s foundational, grassroots ethos from 1902: to secure equity, establish justice, and apply the golden rule. It is our job to create the community we want our kids to come home to, and create the community we want to live in.