

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 31, 2012

Contact: Melisa Augusto, 202-314-3191
maugusto@nfudc.org

Dan McEvily, 202-314-3104
dmcevily@nfudc.org

WASHINGTON (Dec. 31, 2012) – [National Farmers Union](#) (NFU) President Roger Johnson issued the following statement today regarding the 2012 Farm Bill and Congress' failure to complete the legislation:

“National Farmers Union, echoing the voices of most family farmers and ranchers across the country, is deeply disappointed in the dysfunction of Congress. The members' inaction leaves significant uncertainty for farmers and ranchers trying to plan for the 2013 planting season without knowing the coming year's policies.

“Congress has failed to deal with many important issues in the last year and session. America's farmers and ranchers have spoken time and time again - we want a new five-year farm bill in 2012. Clearly, House leaders have not been listening.

“NFU has worked diligently with members of Congress to assist in getting a five-year bill to the president's desk, and will continue to push for the most reasonable process to complete a five-year bill in the most expeditious time possible.

“The failure to pass a five-year farm bill leaves a lot of programs in peril and farmers with great uncertainty. Key programs have already expired with the last farm bill on Sept. 30. They include renewable energy and conservation programs, livestock disaster assistance, beginning farmer and rancher programs, and much of the farm safety net, including dairy programs. We must find a way to deal with these important programs as a part of any effort to move toward a full five-year farm bill.

“If Congress must reluctantly pass an extension, they should do so by fully extending all 2008 programs, such as the disaster, energy and beginning farmers and ranchers programs.”

National Farmers Union has been working since 1902 to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities through advocating grassroots-driven policy positions adopted by its membership.

-30-