

National Farmers Union 2007 Special Order of Business

Farm Bill

WHEREAS, National Farmers Union believes that independent family farmer and rancher owned and operated food, fuel, and fiber production is the most economically, socially, and environmentally beneficial way to meet the needs of our nation; the economy of rural America continues to face the challenges of increasing input expenses, weather-related disasters and inadequate market competition; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the 110th Congress of the United States to debate and consider reauthorization of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, which is set to expire on Sept. 30, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 Farm Bill suffered disproportionate raiding during the 2006 budget reconciliation process, despite saving more than \$13 billion in the first three years of enactment and endured additional cuts in funding through yearly appropriations bills; and

WHEREAS the National Farmers Union encourages Congress to establish farm programs that return profitability and economic opportunity to production agriculture and rural communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, National Farmers Union supports a new Farm Bill that includes the following provisions:

- A farm income safety net that uses counter-cyclical payments indexed to the cost of production to support family farmers during periods of low commodity prices.
- A farmer-owned Strategic Biofuels Feedstock Reserve tied to the needs of producers who utilize agricultural products, livestock feed consumers and food manufacturers, which protects against years of poor crop production, with storage payments set at levels equal to commercial storage and adequate release levels that encourage fair market prices.
- A renewable energy title that makes energy independence a national priority, one that prioritizes and facilitates farmer, rancher, and community ownership of renewable energy and value-added projects, including ethanol, biodiesel, and farmer and community-owned wind energy.
- A comprehensive competition title that addresses current anti-trust practices and ensures anti-trust laws will be enforced.
- A permanent disaster program, funded from the general treasury in the same manner as other natural disasters so that agricultural disaster assistance does not require “offsets.”
- A conservation title that provides adequate funding to support the authorized programs, as intended by Congress. The title should include full funding for the Conservation Security Program, substantial increase in the funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical services to assist farmers and ranchers in the development and implementation of conservation cost-share programs.
- A strong nutrition title to help provide basic food and nutrition needs for citizens of all ages, especially our young, elderly, and physically handicapped.
- Dairy programs that include a strong safety net and a supply management system to protect producers from a market collapse. Dairy prices should reflect cost of production shifts for producers.
- A rural development title that helps farmers, ranchers, and members of the rural communities develop new and better economic opportunities to support and build the economic base of rural America.
- New resources and other efforts to add differentiated value to family farms for the sustainability and competitiveness of specialty crops, livestock and seafood.
- Budget scoring that is not based upon World Trade Organization (WTO) methodology.