

2018 NATIONAL PRIORITIES



NEW YORK FARM BUREAU

2018 NYFB NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Farm Policy

- Work to maintain and improve the farm safety net and other programs in the Farm Bill that are vital to New York farmers, consumers, rural development and the environment. Specifically;
 - Improving the safety net program for dairy farmers
 - Making the Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program workable for highly diversified specialty crop farmers
 - Maintaining cost-share conservation programs to help farmers meet regulatory requirements
 - We oppose the separation of the nutrition programs from the Farm Bill
 - Removing the cap on livestock safety net programs

Agricultural Immigration Reform

- End the immigration stalemate and pass reform legislation that addresses short- and long-term farm labor needs. Reform should allow for current, trained workers to stay on farms and maintain a consistent workforce to plant and harvest crops, and care for livestock. It should also replace the H2A program with a new guest worker visa program that ensures a continuous, legal workforce in the future for all sectors of agriculture, including dairy.
- Until this is completed:
 - Work with Congress to minimize negative impacts of farm labor shortages.
 - Oppose a mandatory E-Verify program unless and until a new comprehensive agricultural guestworker program is in place to provide farmers with workforce security.

Regulatory Reform

- The regulatory process should be transparent, fact-based, respects the will of Congress and observes the separation of powers in the U.S. Constitution.
- Continue to oppose expanded federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act and support measures to prevent EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers from implementing the rule defining of “Waters of the U.S.”.
- Work with Congress and agencies to ensure that the roll-out of several recently enacted regulations, including but not limited to Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), Worker Protection Safety Act (WPS), and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)/ Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), are practical while meeting Congress’s original intent.

Trade

- Continue to support the next generation of trade negotiations that remove barriers to trade and provide expanded markets for U.S. farmers.
- Ensure that changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) do not harm agriculture’s current market access while addressing commodity specific barriers to trade.
- Continue to oppose limitations on the use of geographic indicators. Restricting geographical names for foods would inhibit the marketability and competitiveness of U.S. food products.



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Of Continued Importance:

Infrastructure

- Work for greater investment in rural and agricultural infrastructure including broadband Internet access, rural roads and bridges, and inland waterway locks and dams, sea ports and agricultural research.

Tax Reform

- Monitor the implementation of any changes to the 2017 Tax Reform Law to ensure that it treats agricultural business structures in a fair manner.

Energy

- Ensure policy that enhances the availability and affordability of energy for farmers and encourages the growth of renewable energy production.

There are **35,500** farms in
New York State and **7,300,000** acres of farmland.

The value of agricultural production in
New York State in 2016 was \$5.05 billion.

In 2014 it was \$6.3 billion.

New York's National Rankings

1st lowfat cottage cheese, creamed cottage cheese, sour cream, yogurt

2nd maple syrup, apples, snap beans

3rd grapes, cabbage, milk, total Italian cheese

4th corn silage, total cheese

5th tart cherries, calves





FRIEND OF FARM BUREAU AWARD CRITERIA

The "Friend of Farm Bureau" award is given at the end of each Congress to those members of Congress who were nominated by their state Farm Bureaus and approved by the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors. This award is based upon voting records on priority issues, number of bills sponsored and co-sponsored, specific leadership roles on priority issues, and how accessible and responsive the member is to Farm Bureau members and leaders.



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A background image of a pumpkin patch with several large orange pumpkins in the foreground and more pumpkins in the background.

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