

NYFB Action Items

Trade, Trade, Farm Policy, Regulations, Dairy



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Trade

With the ongoing challenges facing New York farmers, an active trade agenda that seeks to expand market opportunities is critically important. Increasing exports with existing trading partners and working to develop new opportunities are necessary efforts to help revive the agricultural economy and to have agricultural trade be a leading component of broader economic recovery this year and beyond.



Free trade agreements have opened the doors for U.S. farmers in 20 countries, and trade to those countries made up 45% of the U.S.'s agricultural exports in 2019. Trade deals like the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement have set the stage for modern trade agreements that enhance science-based standards for agricultural biotechnology and gene editing. New York Farm Bureau believes American agriculture can once again lead the way in global exports with free trade agreements that open doors to new and growing markets.

Action: Support expanded trade opportunities for agriculture.

TAXES

Farming is a capital-intensive business that typically operate on thin profit margins. Further difficulties are caused by unpredictable market prices and uncontrollable weather conditions. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act gave farmers a tax structure that helps them navigate their volatile business climate. But the temporary nature of many of the provisions insert even more uncertainty into farming. It is important that any tax provisions provide the following:



Action:

- ***Secure permanent estate tax and capital gains tax law that allows family-owned farms to transfer from one generation to another.***
- ***Make low-income tax rates and business deductions permanent to permit farmers to keep more of their earnings and invest in their businesses.***
- ***Lock in tax code provisions that allow farm operations to match expenses with income, so they can manage the seasonal and cyclical nature of their businesses.***

FARM POLICY

The Farm Bill provides critical tools to help farmers manage risk. Farm programs are written to provide a basic level of protection to help offset bad economic times and severe weather. Farm policy improves certainty for farm families through crop insurance, improved risk management programs and support for beginning farmers, while also bringing much-needed funding to trade development and ag research.

As we look to developing the 2023 Farm Bill, it is important that provisions include risk management programs for farmers, food security for consumers, conservation programs for farm resilience, funding for agriculture research and data collection.

REGULATORY REFORM

Enact legislation and achieve regulatory changes to ensure federal rules support New York farmers and ensure any regulatory actions are supported by science and allow agriculture to remain productive and competitive.

DAIRY

New York's dairy industry, as well as the nation's dairy industry, has faced unprecedented low milk prices for the last 5 years. While steps have been taken to assist dairy farmers, through the 2018 Farm Bill and the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program, Livestock Gross Margin Program, and Dairy Revenue Protection, there are still opportunities to support dairy farmers and promote consumption of nutritious dairy products.



Farm Bureau's Efforts to Examine Milk Pricing System

The American Farm Bureau Federation, through a working group of dairy farmer members, have examined and reviewed methods to restructure and modernize the current Federal Milk Marketing Order system. Farm Bureau members then voted to adopt a solid base of FMMO guiding principles including: Reform and modernize milk pricing and revenue pooling provisions while preserving orderly marketing conditions in dairy; Ensure dairy farm families across the country have a voice – and a vote – when considering how to modernize these orders; and Identify the opportunities and challenges in marketing orders. For more information visit: www.fb.org/fmmo.

Action: Supports efforts to:

- ***Examine and review methods to restructure and modernize the current Federal Milk Marketing Order system working with the USDA.***
- ***Ensure dairy farm families across the country have a voice – and a vote – when considering how to modernize these orders.***

Support Whole Milk in Schools and Common-Sense Labeling of Milk Products

NYFB supports allowing the sale of unflavored and flavored whole milk in schools. Currently, schools participating in the National School Lunch Program are barred from selling unflavored and flavored whole milk and can only sell one percent and fat-free unflavored and flavored milk. Milk is the number one source of nine essential nutrients in many young Americans' diets and provides significant health benefits. Not only would the availability of whole milk in schools have a positive impact on the health of children, it would also impact the health of the New York State dairy industry. NYFB supports efforts to enforce food standards regarding the labeling of dairy products and prohibit the misleading labeling of nut- and plant-based food products as "milk" or other common dairy terms.

Action: Support whole milk and chocolate milk in schools through legislation

Action: Support the standard identity of milk through Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation.