

NYS Farm Bureau Legislative Questionnaire:

Congresswoman Claudia Tenney, candidate for New York's 24th Congressional District

What do you think is the largest issue facing farmers in this district? What solutions would you seek?

Soaring costs are one issue I hear about frequently from the farmers I meet with across upstate New York. To address this, I am fighting to tackle the root causes: inflation and supply chain disruptions, which are being driven by reckless spending and naive energy policies in Albany and Washington. It is the worst impulse of career politicians like Joe Biden and Kathy Hochul to think they can solve every problem by spending more or pushing additional Green New Deal policies.

I am also working on longer-term solutions to support New York farmers. This includes commonsense but overdue changes to our tax code, starting with the full repeal of the Death Tax, which uniquely hurts family farms. We also must safeguard stepped-up basis, which the Biden Administration has considered eliminating. Terminating this important provision would create yet another tax on those passing generational family farms on to loved ones.

One of the biggest challenges for New York agriculture is having access to reliable, skilled labor when domestic workers cannot meet this need. Delays in the H-2A program have frustrated farmers and led to loss of crops and unknown legal status of current workers are all concerns that farmers have when it comes to a dependable workforce. How do you see Congress moving forward to address agricultural immigration in a bipartisan manner?

Our immigration system is broken – it prioritizes those who break the law while penalizing those who follow it. I have always opposed mass amnesty and other policies that encourage illegal immigration. Among my top priorities today in Congress is to secure the border and finish the wall, which are national security and humanitarian imperatives. Congress must also come together to finally fix our nation's immigration system, including by sustainably addressing the labor needs and liability exposure of the farming community. I support the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, though not perfect, it opposes mass amnesty and includes strong safeguards like a mandatory E-Verify system for agricultural workers as well as significant work requirements and criminal bars to protect farmers and preserve a safe workforce. Congress must do more to bring order to our

immigration system in a manner that is compassionate, principled, and rooted firmly in our nation's values and security.

Despite growing and raising diverse agricultural products in New York, farmers still face challenges in getting food from the rural areas of our farms to the suburban and urban locations of so many consumers. What would you do to help bridge this divide? What efforts would you take to ensure farmers are able to have reliable markets for their goods?

New York's Upstate farming community drives our economy. I am fighting to unleash America's energy production to lower costs and make it less expensive for farmers to transport their products to market. Too many elected leaders in Washington focus on unattainable green-energy goals instead of practical energy solutions. In Congress, I support legislation to finish the Keystone XL pipeline and recently introduced the American Energy is Global Security Act to incentivize safe natural gas exploration in places like New York. We sit on top of rich natural gas supplies that could power our country with clean energy for decades. But unscientific edicts from Albany prevent us from safely tapping into these reserves, also driving down the property value of agricultural land. We can and must harness our domestic energy supplies to reduce costs and expand opportunity, and we can do this while continuing to be good stewards of the environment.

Farmers are known as stewards of the land, and agriculture plays a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through conservation practices and renewable energy. As Congress works to address climate change, how will you ensure that agriculture is part of the conversation?

I will always be a strong advocate in Congress for our farming community. New York's farmers have responsibly managed our agricultural land for generations, including members of my own family in the Southern Tier. Farmers have made significant strides in modernizing their practices and they understand more than anyone the importance of protecting our natural environment and preserving it for future generations. While there is a role for commonsense standards and sensible regulation, I am committed to making sure that laws or regulations treat farmers as the responsible stakeholders that they are in this process and do not cause unnecessary harm. I strongly supported the Trump Administration's Navigable Waters Protection rule, which made it clear that "federally protected waterways" refers only to larger bodies such as lakes and rivers. This rule reversed a harmful

and overreaching Obama-era regulation that many farmers overwhelmingly opposed because it was unfair, broad, and ideologically-driven.