



2023 National Priorities

New York Farm Bureau will continue to build relationships to educate and work with members of Congress and regulatory agencies to promote policies that benefit New York farmers and rural communities.

Farm Policy

- Support passage of a bipartisan 2023 Farm Bill with Farm Bureau priorities intact.
- Ensure that New York's unique agriculture industry needs are met in the 2023 Farm Bill including:
 - Supportive dairy programs, specialty crop initiatives, agricultural research, nutrition programs that support farmers and consumers, and conservation programs.

Agricultural Labor

- Achieve meaningful legislation that helps farmers meet their short- and long-term labor needs.
 - Allows current, trained workers to stay on farms and maintain a consistent workforce to plant and harvest crops, and care for livestock.
 - Modernize the H-2A program to ensure a continuous, legal workforce for all sectors of agriculture.
- Oppose overly burdensome labor regulations to improve farmers' ability to hire and maintain the workers they need.

Sustainability and Climate

- Ensure that environmental sustainability efforts also ensure economic viability for farmers.
- Provide and promote voluntary, market-based incentive tools and technical assistance for farmers and foresters to enhance carbon sequestration, climate-smart conservation practices and other greenhouse gas emissions reductions using scientifically sound standards.
- Foster the development of private sector ecosystem services markets.
- Increase public awareness of agricultural advances in conservation and climate-smart practices.

Regulations

- Continue to seek a regulatory environment that enables farmers to feed a growing population while remaining environmentally and economically sustainable.
- Ensure EPA's revised definition of "Waters of the United States" stays within the confines of the law and can be easily understood by farmers and landowners.
- Work for reform of decision making and appeals related to conservation compliance (Swampbuster) rules.
- Ensure renewable energy sources are utilized to their full potential.
- Achieve positive Federal Milk Marketing Order reforms to modernize the regulatory process and enhance transparency for dairy farmers.
- Guarantee that Produce Safety Rule water rule requirements are achievable for farmers.

Supply Chain

- Expand agricultural processing capacity and enhance market transparency.
- Support efforts to increase capacity for small meat and poultry processing facilities in states that do not have a state inspection service or a cooperative agreement with USDA.
- Identify and pursue actions that decrease port congestion, reduce barriers to employment, speed up transportation of goods via rail and highway, and ease inflationary pressures.
- Ensure access to agricultural inputs through proactive trade policies and science-based environmental assessments of chemical registrations.

Infrastructure

- Expand reliable, high-speed broadband service.
- Ensure the timely roll out of authorized infrastructure funds and ensure resources are responsibly and efficiently allocated to rebuild, repair and modernize transportation infrastructure, including rural roads and bridges, ports, inland waterway locks and dams.
- Increase federal investment in agricultural research.

Rural Life and Health

- Increase awareness of mental health resources and encourage broader availability of agriculture-specific assistance.
- Expand programs to provide resources and address stigma surrounding mental health challenges.
- Support policies and legislation to provide stress assistance programs to farmers, increase farmer-facing training opportunities, increase awareness and reduce stigma for rural mental health issues.

Taxes

- Educate elected officials on the importance of the individual tax code reforms contained in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that are set to expire in 2025 unless they are extended, including a doubled estate tax exemption, and lowered capital gains tax rate and business deductions, among other provisions.

Trade

- Expand trade opportunities for New York agriculture.
- Encourage the U.S. to join the Comprehensive & Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership agreement.
- Maintain the China Phase 1 agreement and ensure it is implemented.
- Seek continued implementation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, including produce plan implementation.
- Reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade.
- Engage in trade negotiations with the United Kingdom and other nations.
- Advance meaningful reform of the World Trade Organization.

Agriculture in New York

There are 33,400 farms in New York State and 98% of farms in New York are family owned. New York's agriculture industry is diverse including dairy, fruits, vegetables, grain crops, craft beverages, livestock, maple, forestry, and equine operations. There are 6.9 million acres of farmland in the state. The value of agricultural production in New York State was \$5.3 billion in 2020.



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