



FAMILY FARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE 2020 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

The extreme weather events of 2019 show once again that climate change jeopardizes the livelihoods of U.S. family farmers, ranchers, and rural residents, as well as our nation's food, fuel, and fiber supply.

With increasing frequency, family farmers and ranchers are being significantly impacted by the changing climate and the increasingly severe and frequent natural disasters that this phenomenon exacerbates. At the same time, family farms are uniquely positioned to mitigate climate change as healthy soils and vegetation remove existing greenhouse gases from the earth's atmosphere and reduce overall emissions. Agricultural producers must have a seat at the table as new political frameworks to address climate change are being developed.

In order to empower family farmers to lessen the negative impacts of climate change, and as a leader in promoting and highlighting the benefits of ecosystems services provided by agriculture, NFU supports policies, collaborations with consumers, and efforts throughout the agricultural value chain that:

- Support research, cost-share and other incentives to help family farmers install and manage practices and infrastructure that mitigate climate change and sequester carbon;
- Encourage USDA Climate Hubs to coordinate climate information, agronomic and risk management support, and programs that enhance options to allow family farmers to effectively utilize opportunities to enhance profits while mitigating climate change and highlight the positive impact all agricultural producers and all sectors of the agriculture industry including livestock producers are already providing to both adapt to climate change and mitigate climate change's root causes through farm bill conservation programs and other initiatives;
- Encourage energy efficiency, renewable energy production, and further development of the bioeconomy on family farms and in rural communities;
- Expand production and use of biofuels in the transportation system;
- Encourage cooperation and collaboration among family farmers to build and expand market infrastructure that will allow consumers to choose agricultural products that create climate benefits;
- Provide new opportunities for family farmers to articulate their climate mitigation efforts to consumers through food processors and retailers;
- Protect family farmland from carbon intensive suburban sprawl development;
- Protect competition in the markets that family farmers buy from and sell into, allowing for more opportunities to make decisions that benefit soil and the landscape rather than farming within the narrow prescriptive demands of excessively consolidated markets;
- Encourage USDA and other federal agencies to acknowledge existing science on climate change and prioritize research on this issue; and
- Encourage USDA and other federal agencies to explore connections between existing programs that provide agriculture and rural communities opportunities to both adapt to

and mitigate the root causes of climate change and coordinate efforts to enhance the effectiveness of these programs.

- Encourage USDA and private industry to explore opportunities for family farmers and ranchers to realize financial benefit from the ecosystems services generated through improved management practices including voluntary marketplace initiatives and voluntary federal support programs.
- Encourage USDA, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other state and federal agencies to redouble their efforts to install, maintain, and strengthen new and existing infrastructure and new and existing initiatives to help rural America adapt to our changing climate and the extreme weather events it exacerbates.