

FOOD FROM FAMILY FARMS ACT

- Good food for all people
- Fair prices for family farmers
- Thriving rural communities

Good for Farmers & Rural Communities

*The Food from Family Farms Act is a comprehensive legislative proposal that offers an alternative to current disastrous U.S. food and farm policy. **Passage of the Food from Family Farms Act will revitalize our family farm system of production agriculture.***



PHOTO: JENNIFER WALLER

The Food from Family Farms Act (FFFA) recognizes that family farmers should be the foundation of our food system. The farmer is both a steward of the land who nurtures its productivity for generations to come and a caretaker of the crops.

However, for decades, the markets for farm products have not returned a profit to farmers. Giant agribusiness

corporations wield their power in Washington, D.C to ensure that our nation's farm programs, trade agreements, environmental policy, and anti-trust laws are written to guarantee an abundance of cheap commodities for food processors. The ability to obtain these commodities from farmers below the cost of their production boosts corporate profits at the expense of family farmers, rural communities, taxpayers, consumers and the environment. *This scenario has forced farm families from their land, resulting in the deterioration of rural communities and the family farm system of food production.*

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A new farm policy is needed that includes fair prices for famers as a central component. The Food from Family Farms Act (FFFA) will help restore the economic stability of farm families and the communities they support.

The Food from Family Farms Act provides:

- **Price floors for storable commodities**

(set by a non-recourse loan) to ensure that the price processors and exporters pay for farm products covers a farmer's cost of production, including payment for the farm family's labor and management.

- **A farmer-owned reserve**

to allow farmers the benefit of orderly marketing by keeping excess production off the market in abundant years so as not to depress prices. Reserve grain could be brought back to the market only in times of shortage.

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- ***A strategic reserve*** of forfeited grain would be designated for either emergency humanitarian use or for production of biofuels.
- ***A conservation acreage set-aside program*** to avoid costly overproduction. The program would maintain a farmer's ability to choose among cropping patterns while providing cost-share incentives to promote sustainable agricultural practices.
- ***A ban on the ownership of livestock by meatpackers, coupled with stronger anti-trust laws and enforcement*** would help ensure competition and prevent packers from manipulating prices. When ranchers and farmers have equal access to open markets and receive fair prices for their livestock, they can afford to remain independent of corporate contracts and retain control over their operations. Diversified farming operations would halt the expansion of livestock factories and generate new economic activity in rural communities.

Fair trade policy

Current "free trade" agreements and the 2002 Farm Bill depress market prices of grains, livestock and dairy products for farmers around the globe. These policies must change. **The National Family Farm Coalition is pursuing a fair trade policy based on food sovereignty that enables each country to have farm programs that provide fair prices for their farmers and consumers.**

Trade agreements should respect each country's needs and traditions for food security, conservation of natural resources and fair distribution of economic opportunity.



Result: Thriving rural communities

Coupling the Food from Family Farms Act with sound trade policy would promote economically viable farms and ranches, and foster the restoration of rural infrastructures and communities. ***Sustainable rural economic development based on a stable and thriving farming sector provides the incentive for future generations to farm, ranch, and be good stewards of the land.***

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For more information or to promote the Food from Family Farms Act and its policies, contact the **National Family Farm Coalition** (202) 543-5675 • nffc@nffc.net