



## **National Family Farm Coalition 2023 Farm Bill Platform**

Independent family farmers, ranchers, and fishermen are the backbone of rural communities and local food systems in the U.S. and abroad. But these food providers face systemic challenges including corporate consolidation and uncompetitive markets, climate change and environmental degradation, discrimination and exploitation. These challenges are not new, but many of them have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency that has significantly impacted the U.S. food and agriculture system for four of the five years since the 2018 Farm Bill was passed – corporate concentration, farm debt, farmland consolidation, food insecurity, and extreme weather events have all increased and become more severe. And yet, family farmers continue to be resilient and feed their communities.

Public policy shapes the U.S. food and agriculture system, both on land and at sea, and our democratic public institutions are responsible for supporting historically underserved communities, ecological integrity and the commons, and the most vulnerable in our society. As Congress moves into negotiating the 2023 Farm Bill, the National Family Farm Coalition and its 31 member organizations call on our elected officials and our allies to endorse U.S. agriculture policies that support rural communities, diverse local economies, international human rights, agroecology and resilience against climate change, and good food for everyone.

National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) is an alliance of grassroots farmer- and advocate-led groups across the country representing the rights and interests of independent family farmers, ranchers, and fishermen in Washington, DC. Since 1986, NFFC's membership across 42 states is bound by a common belief that communities have the right to determine how their food is grown and harvested; that everyone in the food system should receive fair prices or wages and have equitable access to credit, land, seeds, water, markets, and other resources; and that our food system must support sustainable farming, ranching, and fishing practices.

*NFFC's mission is to mobilize family farmers, ranchers, and fishermen to achieve fair prices, vibrant communities, and healthy foods free of corporate domination.*



- **Supporting fair prices and economic empowerment for farmers, ranchers, and fishermen**  
All food producers should receive fair compensation for their labor to support a dignified livelihood. For decades NFFC has advocated for policy to advance price floors, parity pricing, and fair wages. These pricing reforms, coupled with supply management to limit overproduction, are central to NFFC's priority Farm Bill objective of dairy policy reform.
- **Combating corporate farmland ownership & supporting family farmers' land tenure rights**  
Corporate ownership of land, as well as the price of farmland, have increased significantly over the past two decades. These trends marginalize new, beginning, and low resource producers, as well as undermine local community control of our food systems and natural resources. Historically underserved communities continue to face discrimination and farm loss, particularly through predatory lending practices. Addressing land concentration and supporting community-based land tenure are central to NFFC's priority Farm Bill objective of reforming land governance policy.
- **Strengthening farmer borrower rights and access to agricultural credit**  
Agricultural credit is a critical financial tool for farmers to plant crops, as well as to invest in sustainable practices, replace old machinery, and navigate marketplace disruptions. Without borrower protections, strong institutional oversight, and flexible lending terms, access to credit is too often an extractive relationship between farmers and lenders, particularly for historically underserved farmers who continue to face discrimination. Improving agricultural credit access is central to NFFC's priority Farm Bill objective on farm justice.
- **Fighting corporate domination of agricultural markets for better competition**  
Predatory agricultural contracts, vertical integration, monopsony control of markets, and weak enforcement of antitrust regulations have contributed to the U.S. food system, and the meat and livestock sector in particular, being more concentrated in 2023 than at any point in the last century. Strengthening, and effective implementation, of the Packers and Stockyards Act, together with robust antitrust enforcement, are longtime NFFC priorities critical to fair competition and economic diversification in our agricultural economy.
- **Promoting food sovereignty and local food systems**  
Public investments in regional food infrastructure, institutional procurement from family farmers, and scale-appropriate regulation of small-scale food processors are all critical for food sovereignty, the international Right to Food, and local food systems in the U.S. and abroad.
- **Advancing trade justice and market transparency**  
Marketplace transparency standards, such as mandatory labels for meat, dairy, and seafood, as well as reducing dependence on export markets, are critical for advancing fair trade agreements that prioritize rural community livelihoods, short food supply chains, and consumers' right to know over corporate profits.

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Endorsing NFFC member organizations:

- Agrarian Trust
- American Raw Milk Producers Pricing Association
- Ashtabula Lake Geauga Counties Farmers' Union
- California Dairy Campaign
- Community Alliance for Global Justice
- Community Farm Alliance
- Dakota Resource Council
- Dakota Rural Action
- Family Farm Defenders
- Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
- Farms Not Arms
- Federation of Southern Cooperatives
- Food for Maine's Future
- Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
- Land Loss Prevention Project
- Missouri Rural Crisis Center
- Northeast Organic Farming Association – Connecticut
- Northeast Organic Farming Association – Massachusetts
- Northeast Organic Farming Association - New Hampshire
- Northeast Organic Farming Association - New Jersey
- Northeast Organic Farming Association - New York
- Northeast Organic Farming Association - Rhode Island
- Northeast Organic Farming Association - Vermont
- Northern Plains Resource Council
- North American Marine Alliance
- Powder River Basin Resource Council
- Progressive Agriculture Organization
- Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA
- Rural Vermont
- Western Colorado Alliance
- Women, Food and Agriculture Network

For more information please contact:

Jordan Treakle  
NFFC National Programs Coordinator  
[Jordan@nffc.net](mailto:Jordan@nffc.net)

Antonio Tovar  
NFFC Senior Policy Associate  
[Antonio@nffc.net](mailto:Antonio@nffc.net)

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