



National Family Farm Coalition

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Bruce Summer
Administrator
USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
1400 Independence Avenue SW,
Washington, DC 20250-0201

Re: Access to Fertilizer: Competition and Supply Chain Concerns. Doc. No. AMS-AMS-22-0027

On behalf of the members of the National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC), we thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the Access to Fertilizer: Competition and Supply Chain Concerns. Doc. No. AMS-AMS-22-0027.

NFFC is an alliance of grassroots farmer- and advocate-led groups across 42 states representing the rights and interests of independent family farmers, ranchers, and fisherfolk. Based in Washington, DC, NFFC was founded at the height of the 1980s farm crisis with support from Farm Aid. Today, NFFC's 30 state, regional, and national farm and rural organizations are bound by the 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; that all producers should have equitable access to credit, land, seeds, water, markets, and other resources; and, that our food and agriculture policy must support sustainable farming, ranching, and fishing practices.

Our food and agriculture system is in crisis. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) finds that global hunger has increased to 820 million people – 1 in 9 – while malnutrition has skyrocketed to 2 billion people – about 1 in 4. Meanwhile, farmers globally face chronically low farm-gate prices, rising input costs and extreme weather linked to climate change.

Food producers have a clear vision of how to reform agribusiness's failing model – through scaling up agroecology. Farmers support agroecology because it recognizes the interdependence among rural communities, local ecosystems, and healthy competitive economies. Agroecology offers an inspiring alternative to the industrial agriculture model that is failing rural communities in Iowa. However, agroecology cannot thrive without the political support that agribusiness currently receives. U.S. agriculture policy needs to prioritize agroecology and ensure farmers' rights to seeds, safe water, and pricing structures that ensure farm viability.

Agribusiness claims to “feed the world” but in reality, family farmers feed ourselves and our communities. We stand with farmers and peasants in the global agroecology movement, and call on the state of Iowa, which funds the World Food Prize, to stand with us, too. For all these reasons we are particularly supporting the comments submitted by the National Resource Defense Council to support composting as a fertilizer technic.