

Passing a Comprehensive Farm Bill

Whereas farmers, workers, and consumers alike benefit from a food system that is distributed, resilient and fair.

Whereas the Farm Bill provides the foundation for United States food and agriculture policy, and the current Farm Bill expired in September of 2023.

Whereas a lapse in funding could jeopardize service delivery, needed support for dairy farmers, nutrition assistance, new operating loans, and a host of other issues leading into spring planting.

Now therefore be it resolved that MFU supports passing a comprehensive Farm Bill that includes:

- 1) A competition title, outlining USDA's role in ensuring transparency, enforcing antitrust law, and diversifying markets for processing, inputs, and farm equipment.
- 2) A strengthened farm safety net that reflects higher input costs and puts limits on farm payments to corporate and investor owners.
- 3) Enacting a dairy revitalization plan and other initiatives that ensure a level playing field for family farms.
- 4) New investments to help farmers implement voluntary practices that mitigate and adapt to climate change, including on-farm renewable energy and soil health investments.
- 5) Expansion of working lands conservation programs, especially the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). We support timely haying and grazing of acres held in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during droughts.
- 6) Expansion of support for small and mid-sized regional processing facilities, including meat processors.
- 7) Strong support for farmers markets, farm to school and early care, institutional purchasing, and other initiatives that strengthen diverse local and regional markets.
- 8) Improved access to programs, credit, and technical assistance for beginning and emerging farmers.
- 9) Support for publicly funded research on new crop varieties, disease resistance, animal health, and other initiatives that help family farms diversify and remain resilient.
- 10) Strong funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), school meals, and other programs that address hunger.
- 11) Expansion of support for the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program and Powering Affordable Clean Energy Program (PACE) so all electric co-ops can benefit.