



New York Farm Bureau

# 2017 NATIONAL PRIORITIES







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## *Regulatory Reform*

- The regulatory process should be transparent, fact-based, respects the will of Congress and observes the separation of powers in the U.S. Constitution
- Continue to oppose expanded federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act and support measures to prevent EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers from implementing the rule defining “Waters of the U.S.”
- Withdrawal and re-issuance of the EPA’s Worker Protection Standard to ensure that it truly ensures safety of workers while recognizing the unique conditions on farms

## *Agricultural Immigration Reform*

- End the immigration stalemate and pass reform legislation that addresses short and long-term farm labor needs. Reform should allow for current, trained workers to stay on farms and maintain a consistent workforce to plant and harvest crops, and care for livestock. It should also replace the H2A program with a new guest worker visa program that ensures a continuous, legal workforce in the future for all sectors of agriculture, including dairy
- Until this is completed:
  - o Work with Congress to minimize negative impacts of farm labor shortages.
  - o Oppose a mandatory E-Verify program unless and until a new comprehensive agricultural guestworker program is in place to provide farmers with workforce security

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## FRIEND OF FARM BUREAU AWARD CRITERIA

The “Friend of Farm Bureau” award is given at the end of each Congress to those members of Congress who were nominated by their state Farm Bureaus and approved by the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors. This award is based upon voting records on priority issues, number of bills sponsored and co-sponsored, specific leadership roles on priority issues, and how accessible and responsive the member is to Farm Bureau members and leaders.

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## *Farm Policy*

- Work to maintain and improve the farm safety net and other programs in the Farm Bill that are vital to New York farmers, consumers, rural development and the environment.  
Specifically;
  - Improving the safety net program for dairy farmers
  - Making the Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program workable for specialty crop farmers
  - Maintaining cost-share conservation programs to help farmers meet regulatory requirements
  - Opposing the separation of the nutrition programs from the Farm Bill

## *Tax Reform*

- Ensuring that the tax code recognizes farmer's financial challenges and encourages farm transfers from generation to generation within a family.
- Any plan must be comprehensive and address both individual and corporate tax reform. It must also recognize the cyclical nature of farm income and protect the concepts of cash accounting for farm businesses

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There are **35,500** farms in  
New York State and **7,200,000** acres of farmland.

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The value of agricultural production in New  
York State in 2015 was \$5.33 billion.

*In 2014 it was \$6.3 billion.*

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### New York's National Rankings

1<sup>st</sup> cottage cheese, sour cream

2<sup>nd</sup> apples, cabbage, snap beans, maple syrup

3<sup>rd</sup> grapes, cauliflower, milk cows, total Italian cheese

4<sup>th</sup> corn for silage, tart cherries, pears, milk production, total cheese

5<sup>th</sup> onions, squash, sweet corn, calves

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*“New York Farm Bureau values the relationships our members have developed with their representatives in Congress. It is important that lawmakers have an understanding of the issues facing agriculture in order to make informed decisions on critical issues that affect farms across the state. Our farmers bring a unique voice and stories to the nation’s capital.”*

**David Fisher, President**

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