



Strategic Issues Action Plan 2023

The American Farm Bureau Federation's Strategic Issues Action Plan includes goals targeted for intensive, cross-functional advocacy planning and monitoring, grassroots support and engagement, and increased awareness of issues important to agriculture. As the unified voice of agriculture, it is critical that AFBF works to safeguard farm and ranch profitability, which enables farmers to build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and renewable fuel for our nation and the world.

- **Agricultural Labor:**
 - Achieve meaningful legislation that helps farmers and ranchers meet their labor needs.
 - Oppose overly burdensome labor regulations to improve farmers' ability to hire and maintain the workers they need.
- **Farm Policy:**
 - Support passage of a bipartisan 2023 Farm Bill with Farm Bureau priorities intact.
- **Infrastructure:**
 - Expand reliable, high-speed broadband service.
 - Rebuild, repair and modernize transportation infrastructure, including rural roads and bridges, ports, inland waterway locks and dams and western water projects.
 - Increase federal investment in agricultural research.
- **Regulations:**
 - Ensure EPA's revised definition of "Waters of the United States" stays within the confines of the law and can be easily understood by farmers, ranchers and landowners.
 - Work for reform of decision making and appeals related to conservation compliance (Swampbuster) rules.
 - Ensure multiple-use mandates on federal lands are respected.
 - Continue to seek a regulatory environment that enables farmers and ranchers to feed a growing population while remaining environmentally and economically sustainable.
 - Ensure renewable energy sources such as U.S.-grown biofuels are utilized to their full potential.
 - Support proposed rules to increase transparency in poultry grower contracting and decrease deceptive practices that violate the Packers and Stockyards Act.
 - Achieve positive Federal Milk Marketing Order reforms to modernize the regulatory process and enhance transparency for farmers.

- **Rural Health:**
 - Increase awareness of mental health resources and encourage broader availability of agriculture-specific assistance.
 - Expand programs to provide resources and address stigma surrounding mental health challenges.
 - Support policies and legislation to provide stress assistance programs to farmers and ranchers, increase farmer-facing training opportunities, increase awareness and reduce stigma for rural mental health issues.

- **Supply Chain:**
 - Identify and pursue actions that decrease port congestion, reduce barriers to employment, speed up transportation of goods via rail and highway, and ease inflationary pressures.
 - Expand agricultural processing capacity and enhance market transparency.
 - Support efforts to increase capacity for small meat and poultry processing facilities in states that do not have a state inspection service or a cooperative agreement with USDA.
 - Ensure access to agricultural inputs through proactive trade policies and science-based environmental assessments of chemical registrations.

- **Sustainability:**
 - Ensure that environmental sustainability efforts also ensure economic viability for farmers and ranchers.
 - Provide and promote voluntary, market-based incentive tools and technical assistance for farmers, ranchers and foresters to enhance carbon sequestration and other greenhouse gas emissions reductions using scientifically sound standards.
 - Foster the development of private sector ecosystem services markets.
 - Increase public awareness of agricultural advances in conservation and climate-smart practices.

- **Taxes:**
 - Educate elected officials on the importance of the individual tax code reforms contained in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that are set to expire in 2025 unless they are extended, including a doubled estate tax exemption, and lowered capital gains tax rate and business deductions, among other provisions.

- **Trade:**
 - Expand trade opportunities for U.S. agriculture.
 - Encourage the U.S. to join the Comprehensive & Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership agreement.
 - Maintain the China Phase 1 agreement and ensure it is implemented.
 - Seek continued implementation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, including produce plan implementation.
 - Reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade.
 - Engage in trade negotiations with the United Kingdom and other nations.
 - Advance meaningful reform of the World Trade Organization.