

NCFC 2025 PRIORITIES

Numerous legislative and regulatory issues arise throughout the year, and NCFC will work to ensure the value of farmer cooperatives is recognized by Congress and the Administration. In 2025, NCFC will focus its efforts on key priority issues for farmer cooperatives, including:

1. Support the Capper-Volstead Act antitrust protections for farmer cooperatives and protect the rights of farmers to join or form cooperatives to market their products and improve their income from the marketplace.
2. Maintain Internal Revenue Code Subchapter T tax provisions for farmer cooperatives and promote favorable tax treatment for farmer cooperatives.
3. Support legislative and regulatory efforts that promote the Farm Credit System's unwavering mission to provide credit and related services to the agricultural sector and rural America.
4. Maintain and promote farmer cooperative eligibility and access under USDA and other federal programs and initiatives.
5. Urge the administration and Congress to ensure that federal agricultural policy provides equitable access for all producers and rural communities to farm, conservation, and rural development programs. Further, encourage USDA and other federal agencies in their efforts to address historic inequalities in these programs and promote a diversity of representation on advisory committees and similar bodies.
6. Maintain support and funding for USDA farm bill programs consistent with NCFC principles.
7. Support immigration reform to meet agriculture's labor needs and to ensure a dependable supply of high-quality food and fiber.
8. Support modernization of U.S. transportation infrastructure to maintain and enhance U.S. agriculture's global competitiveness.
9. Broaden support for enhanced U.S. agricultural trade and increased market access.
10. Support efforts to ensure regulations implementing financial regulatory market reforms do not impair farmer cooperatives' ability to use and provide essential risk management tools.
11. Support conservation programs and environmental regulations that are locally driven and based on scientifically and economically sound practices, recognizing the unique nature of farmer cooperatives and production agriculture.
12. Support efforts to ensure farmer-owned cooperatives, their employees, and the producers they serve are presented with affordable and varied options as part of any reforms to the nation's health care system.
13. Support the development of a comprehensive national energy strategy that meets our nation's energy needs and maximizes a role in energy independence for American agriculture and farmer cooperatives.
14. Support nutrition policy based on best available science and promote healthful consumption of farm-raised meat, aquaculture, dairy products, grains, and fruits, vegetables, and nuts, based on their nutritional value.
15. Support efforts to reduce economic uncertainty created by burdensome regulations, including those that are pending.

16. Support the development and use of technologies for efficient, safe production of affordable food, fiber and fuel while ensuring all types of agriculture are not disparaged in the marketplace and there is a fair, level regulatory framework and oversight process across technologies and procedures.
17. Support practical, science-based, and voluntary agricultural programs that promote a balanced approach to improving soil health, increasing productivity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and incorporating renewable energy, while maintaining profitability and facilitating new market opportunities for farmers and their cooperatives.

NCFC 2025 Policy Resolutions

Legal, Tax and Accounting

Background: Farmer-owned cooperatives are central to America's abundant, safe and affordable food, fuel and fiber supply. NCFC strongly supports public policy that continues to protect and strengthen the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in cooperative efforts to maintain and promote the economic well-being of farmers, ensure access to competitive markets, and capitalize on market opportunities. The heart of farmer co-op policy lies with the protections afforded by the Capper-Volstead Act's limited antitrust immunity for farmers and their cooperatives. Without those protections, many farmer cooperatives would cease to exist and the farmers and communities they serve would suffer irreparable harm.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Oppose any action that would limit the effectiveness and efficiency of farmer cooperatives as such action would harm American agriculture and rural communities, resulting in a less reliable food, fuel, and fiber supply.
2. Maintain Capper-Volstead Act protections and coordinate industry response to legal challenges regarding the scope and applicability of the Act.
3. Maintain Internal Revenue Code Subchapter T tax provisions for farmer cooperatives.
4. Promote tax and accounting policies that allow farmer cooperatives and their members to compete in today's challenging marketplace and to pass on their operations to the next generation.
5. Ensure that Section 199A and Section 199A(g), the cooperative-specific provision, are made a permanent part of the tax code.

Farm Credit

Background: The Farm Credit System is a cooperatively owned network of financial institutions established by Congress to serve as the reliable supplier of competitively priced credit to U.S. farmers, ranchers, agricultural cooperatives, rural utilities, and other rural businesses. The cooperative structure of the Farm Credit System ensures that profits are returned to customer-

owners through patronage distributions or are used to support new, mission-related lending activities.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Support initiatives ensuring that the Farm Credit System remains a reliable and competitive source of credit to farmers, ranchers, agricultural cooperatives, and rural infrastructure.
2. Support the Agriculture Committees' continued jurisdiction over the Farm Credit System and regulatory oversight by the Farm Credit Administration.
3. Support efforts by the Farm Credit System to modernize its lending authorities to reflect the changing rural and farm economy, including the development of new-generation cooperatives, if such opportunities arise.
4. Oppose any action that would revise Farm Credit System tax provisions in a manner that would negatively impact customer-owners and the ability of Farm Credit institutions to build capital necessary to serve customers.
5. Oppose efforts to divert cooperative financial earnings or investments from customer-owners to fund non-cooperative outside interests' initiatives, which would result in undermining the cooperative lending structure.
6. Support efforts of the Farm Credit System to protect its unique cooperative status as a GSE. Support tax provisions that require other financial institutions to pass any tax benefits back to agricultural producers when applicable.
Oppose efforts to adopt measures supported by competitors, especially those that would be detrimental to customer services and that are disparaging to the System.

Agriculture Policy

Background: NCFC strongly supported the passage and implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill to meet the needs of U.S. producers, ensure the long-term viability, health, and competitiveness of U.S. agriculture, and help meet domestic and international food, fiber, feed, and energy needs.

Additionally, NCFC closely follows the appropriations process in Congress. Programs that are authorized but never funded are of no help. Likewise, programs deprived during the appropriations process never reach their full potential.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Maintain and promote farmer cooperative eligibility and access under USDA and other federal programs and initiatives.
2. Maintain support and funding for USDA farm bill programs consistent with NCFC principles, including resources to provide appropriate staffing across USDA to ensure programs can be administered properly and timely.
3. Support efforts to maintain a budgetary baseline, thus minimizing potential budget cuts, to ensure adequate funding for policies and programs to meet the needs of U.S.

agriculture.

4. Promote the development of an improved, market-relevant income safety net for producers, while helping to meet the food, fuel, and fiber needs of consumers at home and abroad.
5. Support dairy policy that reduces extreme volatility and maintains a viable and effective domestic safety net for producers with a focus on protecting the operating margin experienced by producers as reflected by milk price and input costs.
6. Support a responsive safety net, together with adequate funding, that incorporates improved, comprehensive risk management tools and programs for producers and their cooperatives.
7. Support sugar policy that ensures farmers have a strong safety net. Oppose actions that would weaken the safety net.
8. Support farm legislation that includes provisions that require USDA to maintain the operation of the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Marketing Assistance Loan during periods of a lapse in government funding.
9. Provide for strong, meaningful, and affordable crop insurance protection and oppose any changes to crop insurance that would discourage producer participation or undermine private sector delivery, including limiting program eligibility through means testing.
10. Support strengthening the specialty crop industry through viable and economical systems that enhance value, ensure safety, and promote the consumption of specialty crop products.
11. Support policies that enhance the ability of U.S. farmers to produce food, fuel and fiber using technologies that are based on proven science, including biotechnology.
12. Support and maintain expanded pest and disease research programs, improved exclusion, and eradication programs, and continue to protect the tools that are vital in these efforts.
13. Increase federal funding to protect against the introduction of pests and pathogens at ports of entry.
14. Support federally authorized and producer-supported research, marketing, and promotion programs, commonly known as check-offs, which are established and approved in referenda by producers who fund the programs with their own money.
15. Support sustainable business practices through an integrated approach to economic viability for farmers and their co-ops, environmental stewardship, and community well-being.
16. Support the maintenance of a vaccination bank or repository for use in time-sensitive disease control.
17. Support increased federal investment in agriculture and food-related research through the farm bill and other federal funding provisions with emphasis on industry priorities, public-private partnerships, and ensuring farmers and ranchers have access to the scientifically rigorous tools and information they need to:
 - a. Maintain and promote needed agricultural research to keep U.S. agriculture competitive in global markets, including improved seed varieties, mechanization, and automation.
 - b. Improve the ability to measure, collect, and benchmark metrics to continually

- reduce agriculture's impact on the environment; and
 - c. Provide resources to help agriculture adapt to changes in weather conditions, pest and disease management, and improved cropping systems.
 - d. Build climate resilience, mitigate environmental impacts, and increase the productivity of their land.
18. Establish policies that foster the development of private sector markets for GHG credits and provide the appropriate role for government in that development. The public sector should ensure that verifiable reductions occur and provide producers with the technical support needed to participate voluntarily.
19. USDA's Climate Hubs should be formally codified and expanded so that they can regularly engage stakeholders and prioritize vital research.

Animal Agriculture

Background: NCFC supports animal agriculture policies that provide market transparency, reduce unnecessary government regulations, and increase the availability of market information for livestock, poultry, and egg producers. Federal policies must recognize the unique and important role farmer-owned livestock and poultry marketing associations play in the success of American agriculture and in providing farmers the best opportunity to compete in an increasingly challenging marketplace.

NCFC also continues to work with industry partners to improve communications among farmers, ranchers, processors, food retailers, and consumers, helping people better understand the role animal agriculture plays in providing a safe, abundant food supply.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Support strengthening the livestock industry through viable and economical systems that enhance the value and ensure the safety of animal agriculture products, promoting consumer confidence.
2. Support policies that enhance the ability of cooperative members to raise animals for food and fiber consistent with best management practices, herd health objectives, and available technologies based on proven science, are economically and environmentally sound, and ensure the safety of animal agriculture products.
3. Support policies that promote the responsible use of production practices by producers to maintain the health of their animals and to continue to provide the American consumer with a high-quality source of protein.
4. Support the use of antimicrobials in an approved herd health program to promote animal well-being and to provide healthy and safely produced food for consumers.
5. Support policies to enhance business opportunities for livestock and poultry producers as well as their farmer-owned livestock marketing associations by providing the freedom and flexibility to engage in new market innovations.
6. Oppose federal policies that negatively impact farmer-owned livestock marketing associations by limiting the marketing options of the cooperative and its members.

7. Oppose activities and extreme policies that lack basis or scientific evidence and negatively impact the ability of farmer-owned cooperatives and their producer members to produce a safe and affordable food supply.
8. Support policies and programs that enhance the traceability of livestock for purposes of disease control and marketability.
9. Provide a risk- and science-based regulatory pathway to streamline the animal and aquaculture biotechnology approval process.
10. Maintain exemption of livestock from greenhouse gas emissions reporting.
11. Support policies that improve the regulatory process for animal feed additives.

Commodity Markets

Background: As processors and marketers of commodities and suppliers of farm inputs, cooperatives are commercial end-users of over-the-counter derivatives (commodity swaps) and exchange-traded contracts. Cooperatives use futures, options, and swaps to effectively minimize risks associated with price movements in commodities, such as grain, dairy products, livestock, energy, and fertilizer. In addition, derivatives give cooperatives the ability to offer customized products to producers that help them better manage their risk and returns and provide more predictable profitability.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Promote improved comprehensive risk management tools and programs for farmers.
2. Support efforts to ensure Commodity Futures Trading Commission regulations do not impair farmer cooperatives' ability to use and provide their members with essential risk management tools.
3. Support the development of risk management products to ensure a reliable and affordable supply of fertilizers and other inputs.
4. Support initiatives that promote the ability of farmer cooperatives to offer forward contracts and risk-mitigation tools to producers, particularly in times of high crop and crop input prices.

Rural Development

Background: Farmer cooperatives have increased their presence in rural communities and have a vested interest in the economic well-being of these areas. Their activities, earnings, and patronage dividends directly support the rural American economy. Federal policies must continue providing rural communities with the tools necessary to sustain and promote economic well-being.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Encourage and promote rural development, including through farmer-owned businesses.
2. Strengthen programs to better enable farmers and their cooperatively owned businesses to capitalize on new value-added market opportunities.

3. Maintain Value-Added Producer Grants, including farmer cooperative eligibility, and full funding.
4. Ensure USDA's Cooperative Services has the staff and resources to meet the needs of our nation's farmer cooperatives by providing relevant and timely information, statistics, and research in addition to effective program administration.
5. Ensure rural America receives equitable treatment in federal infrastructure investments, including expansion of broadband for production agriculture and to increase access to public safety, community facilities and health resources, adapt to evolving market systems and improve resiliency to adverse climate conditions.

Labor and Immigration

Background: The agriculture industry faces unique employment needs and challenges, and the current H-2A guest worker program is unworkable. Production agriculture requires sufficient farm labor resources to continue to supply the nation and the world with high quality food, fiber and fuel. Additionally, many in the industry rely on the H-2B program, which continuously hits an arbitrary cap on visas allocated yearly resulting in employers without access to needed workers.

For production to continue in this country, agriculture must be supported by federal programs that allow for their labor needs to be met. Federal policies now and in the future must recognize the unique nature of agricultural work and our international competitiveness issues that require access to a flexible workforce. Additionally, farm safety is of the highest importance.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Support immigration reform that meets the unique needs of all segments of agriculture, in terms of visa length and addressing agricultural workers currently in the country. Without immigration reform, the current H-2A process must be simplified and eligibility extended for non-seasonal workers to meet the needs across all of agriculture. In addition, clarification of agricultural cooperative eligibility in the H-2A program is needed. A farmer-owned cooperative is an extension of the farmer, and as such eligible job duties performed at the agricultural cooperative should be considered permissible for the purposes of the H-2A program.
2. Support policies that utilize a fair and predictable approach to wages and benefits that does not unduly impede U.S. competitiveness.
3. Support alleviating or removing visa cap pressure on the H-2B program.
4. Oppose mandatory E-Verify without a workable, legislative solution for agriculture's current and future workforce. Oppose any efforts to exempt agriculture from the use of E-Verify which would likely lead to an increase in industry workforce audits.
5. Support efforts to ensure that immigration regulation and enforcement procedures, including by the Department of Labor and Department of Homeland Security, do not impose unreasonable costs and overly burdensome obligations on agricultural employers.

6. Support simplifying the methods for small seasonal employers to determine whether they are subject to the employer mandate under the Affordable Care Act and defining “seasonal employee” as a worker who is employed on a seasonal basis for six months or less during the calendar year, consistent with Department of Treasury regulations.
7. Support responsible and cost-effective regulatory policies that provide a safe and productive work environment while promoting our economic competitiveness. Oppose federal efforts that do not adequately recognize the diversity of co-op services, agricultural production, and processing.
8. Farms with 10 or fewer employees should not be regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
9. Support policies that enhance the ability of young people to seek employment in agricultural operations and related fields.
10. Support policies that promote maximum flexibility in structuring employee hours, career advancement opportunities for employees, and clarity for employers in classifying their employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
11. Support policies to restore clarity around determining employee or independent contractor classifications under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
12. Oppose policies and proposals that would expand the rights of third parties to be present at Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspections beyond those established in the 1993 OSHA regulation governing participation by employee representatives.

Energy

Background: NCFC supports an energy policy that maximizes a role for American agriculture and farmer cooperatives in energy independence. Farmer cooperatives are vital players in this country’s quest for energy independence and in ensuring that producers can capitalize on expanded market opportunities. Renewable energy sources, along with conservation, are important tools in securing a more affordable and accessible domestic renewable energy supply.

NCFC encourages passage of a comprehensive energy bill recognizing the contributions of the American farmer and rancher in the renewable energy industry.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Support legislative and regulatory action to meet U.S. and agriculture’s energy needs.
2. Promote expanded infrastructure for and development and use of renewable fuels and other energy sources as part of a comprehensive energy policy to help meet U.S. agriculture and our nation’s energy needs.
3. Support a consistent and reliable policy of renewable fuels incentives and other provisions encouraging the production of renewable fuels. New approaches to federal investment in the renewable fuels industry should encourage innovation and market

- stability.
4. Support voluntary policies promoting the development of technologies to further utilize manure as a feedstock to produce gas, fuel, or electricity, especially if these projects are cost-effective and provide an economic benefit to farmers and/or farmer-owned cooperatives.
 5. Recognize the importance of, and continuing role for, traditional energy sources, where the agriculture industry and rural America maintains a competitive cost structure for energy users.
 6. Promote affordable technology advances for cleaner utilization of fossil-based fuel sources.
 7. Incentivize farmers to reduce energy consumption, increase the use of on-farm renewable energy, and make continued progress toward reducing the lifecycle GHG emissions of agriculture-based renewable energy. Achieve these objectives by expanding and revising energy programs administered by USDA and the U.S. Department of Energy, and by updating the analysis of GHG emissions under the Renewable Fuels Standard.
 8. Encourage the Department of Energy to use its authority under the Natural Gas Act to determine if LNG export contracts to non-free trade agreement countries are in the public interest.
 9. Ensure all cooperatives are eligible to participate in the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) regardless of size.

Transportation & Infrastructure

Background: Improving our transportation infrastructure must be a national priority deserving urgent attention – sooner rather than later. Capacity constraints, structurally deficient bridges, deteriorating roads, and locks and dams long past their expected useful life require our full attention as a nation.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Support the modernization of U.S. transportation infrastructure to maintain and enhance U.S. agriculture's global competitiveness, including prioritizing investments in bulk and container shipping infrastructure at America's ports through federal funding, public-private partnerships, and streamlined permitting processes.
2. Support legislation to fully fund the construction of new locks on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River System.
3. Support efforts and resources necessary to always maintain a nine-foot river channel for river commerce.
4. Support improvements in rail capacity, competition, service, and accessibility in rural America.
5. Support the expansion of key trucking routes on the interstate system.
6. Maintain and expand agricultural hours of service exemption.
7. Pass long-overdue trucking productivity improvements, including increased allowable weights for hauling agricultural commodities.
8. Support policies that promote the construction of pipelines in the United States to

accommodate increased domestic energy production, improve the reliability and flexibility of our country's energy delivery networks, and to complement rail lines, highways, and waterways.

9. Support measures that facilitate increased U.S. port efficiencies and policies that prevent port disruptions that cause economic harm to agricultural shippers and producers. Further, NCFC supports legislative and regulatory efforts to modernize port infrastructure to ensure the U.S. remains a leader in global trade and logistics.
10. Support streamlining the review and permitting processes through regulatory reforms of such laws as the Endangered Species Act to expedite improvements to infrastructure, avoiding unnecessary delays for long-awaited maintenance, repairs, and new projects.

International Trade

Background: NCFC seeks a level playing field for U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace. Market development and promotion programs are vital to maintaining and expanding U.S. agricultural exports, countering subsidized foreign competition, protecting American jobs, and strengthening farm income. Accordingly, NCFC supports strong market development and promotion programs in pursuit of increased agricultural exports and the farm-level benefits they generate.

Additionally, over the past decade, the resources for both FAS and APHIS have come under significant pressure due to budget issues. This pressure has come at a time when competition in key foreign markets has only increased. These resources, including personnel and infrastructure, are extremely valuable in ensuring that overseas markets remain open and efficient for U.S. agricultural exports.

We recognize the benefits of multilateral negotiations. However, in the absence of an active multilateral round of trade negotiations, the U.S. should continue to engage in bilateral and regional negotiations to improve foreign market access for U.S. agricultural products.

Policy Resolutions:

1. The U.S. trade remedy law process should be strictly adhered to maintain it as a viable tool for American agriculture.
2. Any renegotiation or modernization of existing trade agreements should maintain and expand upon previous gains in agricultural market access, while also making improvements to trade rules.
3. Support the negotiation of new, comprehensive free trade agreements that are beneficial to U.S. farmers and address tariffs, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and other non-tariff trade barriers, including geographic indicators.
4. Market Access
 - a. Maintain and expand U.S. agriculture exports and global competitiveness, including substantially improved access to foreign markets.
 - b. Maintain and strengthen USDA Export Programs and funding; and ensure

continuation of the branded program and current cooperative eligibility in the Market Access Program.

- c. Support increased market access for U.S. agriculture exports, including to Cuba.
5. Support enhanced resources for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in support of U.S. agriculture exports.

Conservation and the Environment

Background: NCFC is involved with a wide variety of conservation and environmental issues from implementation of farm bill conservation programs to pesticide registrations to wetlands regulations. While the issues vary, our principles remain: NCFC believes conservation programs and environmental regulations should be locally driven and based on scientifically and economically sound practices and should recognize the unique nature of farmer cooperatives and production agriculture. Additionally, we work to promote the value of farmer cooperatives in the context of the growing dialogue about social responsibility and sustainability.

However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has multiple, aggressive regulatory and enforcement initiatives underway that ignore the role of states and affect nearly every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Water quality, air quality, pesticide use, and climate change are all subject to major actions, and farms and ranches of all sizes can expect to be affected.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Encourage USDA to use public-private partnerships to promote environmental stewardship, recognizing the unique role that farmer cooperatives can play as a part of the delivery system relating to environmental programs.
2. Oppose environmental legislation or regulatory actions that cause adverse impacts to farmer-owned cooperatives and their farmer members, including increased costs of production, that hinder their ability to produce food, fuel, and fiber for the world.
3. Support full funding for working lands conservation programs, including those that utilize voluntary, incentive-based conservation practices, to maximize conservation program benefits and better achieve important environmental objectives.
4. Support efforts to ensure access to critically needed crop protection products for agriculture.
5. Encourage Endangered Species Act reform that provides workable solutions for farmers and ranchers while protecting endangered species.
6. Support regulation of pesticides that is science-based, transparent, and involves stakeholder engagement as codified in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), thereby ensuring that risk conclusions are as closely tied to real-world conditions as practicably possible. Further, support a fully funded Office of Pesticide Programs to ensure protection of human health and the environment.
7. Support efforts to ensure producers participating in cost-share conservation programs can engage in opportunities in environmental services markets.
8. Support implementation of science-based environmental policies while minimizing

- cost and regulatory burdens on farmer cooperatives and their member owners.
9. Oppose expansion of the jurisdictional reach of the Clean Water Act.
 10. Ensure any climate change initiative provides benefits and opportunities for farmer cooperatives without adding burdensome costs and regulations.
 11. Provide voluntary, incentive-based tools for farmers and ranchers to maximize the sequestration of carbon and the reduction of other greenhouse gas emissions and increase the resilience of the land. Support additional technical assistance measures to ensure producers can overcome barriers to adoption of practices that can lead to significant reduction of GHGs and improvements in soil health.
 12. Incentivize agricultural producers to prioritize climate-smart practices through an array of public and private sector tools, including transferable producer tax credits, a U.S. Department of Agriculture-administered Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Initiative and the enhancement of existing USDA conservation programs.
 13. Support policies and practices that assist producers in participating in environmental services and voluntary carbon markets.

Food Safety

Background: America's farmers and ranchers are committed to providing a safe and affordable food supply for consumers globally. NCFC urges that any actions by Congress be based on the best available science and prudent risk assessment. American consumers need to have confidence that their food is safe and that the best science is being used to ensure that the most wholesome products possible.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Support food safety legislation and regulations based on the best available science, and that are risk-based, commodity-specific, and applied equitably.
2. Ensure food safety regulations enhance our nation's food safety while avoiding negative impacts to farmer cooperatives and their producer members.

Nutrition & Labeling

Background: A large and increasing number of federal dollars are spent to ensure nutritious food is available for our nation's individuals, families, and children who rely on federal nutrition programs. America's farmers and ranchers supply the nation and the world with nutritious and wholesome food. NCFC urges that any actions by Congress to update or change nutrition policy be based on the best available science and USDA's Dietary Guidelines.

Policy Resolutions:

1. Support USDA food and nutrition programs and the continuation of USDA commodity purchases using Section 32 funds.
2. Support strengthening the Buy America provision in the school meals program to

ensure federal taxpayer dollars are being used to support our domestic agricultural economy as well as ensure our children are being served safe, quality meals.

3. Support expansion of Buy America provisions to federal procurement programs.
4. Ensure federal agencies are coordinating with USDA when determining food policy for their respective programs, including military service.
5. Support efforts to ensure Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee members and the scope of their recommendations are focused on dietary recommendations rather than agricultural production practices.
6. Encourage USDA's food and nutrition programs to provide all forms of fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts as outlined in the Dietary Guidelines.
7. Ensure that federal nutrition policy is consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines and encourages healthful consumption of farm-raised meat, aquaculture, dairy products, grains, and fruits, vegetables, and nuts, based on the best available science.
8. Support policies that do not impose arbitrary restrictions on the food and beverages available in federal nutrition assistance programs.
9. Support the healthful consumption of higher fat content milk and milk products through federal nutrition programs.
10. Support the development and use of technologies for the efficient, safe production of affordable food, fiber, and fuel while ensuring all types of agriculture are not disparaged in the marketplace and there is a fair, level regulatory framework and oversight process across technologies and procedures.
11. Support legislative and regulatory efforts to grant federal preemptive authority on all food labeling requirements, including: the formation of one standardized nutritional labeling system for food labels and grocery store shelf markers that is based on best available science and criteria that are public and readily available to consumers.
12. Oppose food labeling initiatives that conflict with science and increase food costs without achieving any substantiated benefits and support a national, uniform standard for warning consumers of actual risks associated with consuming or using agricultural products.
13. Reduce the GHG impact of food waste and loss within the food value chain. One example is streamlining confusing consumer-facing packaging and implementing a public-private partnership to achieve a meaningful and workable food date-labeling program supported by robust public consumer education.
14. Support the reauthorization of federal child nutrition programs, recognizing the need for flexibility while building on advancements made to ensure students have access to healthy, nutritious food.
15. Any federal food labeling policies should be consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
16. Support efforts to ensure that changes to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program preserve current levels of fruit and vegetable intake for those populations and provide maximum flexibility for participants in those programs to select foods and beverages that best meet their needs.