

National Farmers Organization continues to support the following family farming concepts.

In future dairy policy:

- 1) Eliminate end product pricing as a base price for milk.
- 2) Eliminate make allowances in the Federal Orders.
- 3) As a method of balancing supply with domestic usage, National Farmers Organization supports the current CWT export assistance program and urges its continuation in the future.

National Farmers supports family dairy farms because they enhance rural economies, preserve the environment, and assure food security. By “family dairy farm,” we mean dairy farms that meet these six criteria:

- 1) The farmer owns the business.
- 2) The farmer controls marketing of milk produced on the farm.
- 3) The farmer makes day-to-day management decisions.
- 4) The farmer resides on or near the farm.
- 5) The farmer is physically and substantially involved in day-to-day care of animals and field work
- 6) The farmer purchases supplies, inputs and services locally.

1) Eliminate block voting on all matters relating to dairy activities covered under the Capper-Volstead Act, governmental referendums, Federal Milk Marketing Order votes and agricultural promotion plans to give producers an opportunity to vote individually. Each dairy producer with production affected by any referendum vote would have one vote, and all tabulations would be completed using the "one farmer-one vote" method. The volume produced by an individual producer would not be taken into account on any referendum vote count.

2) A USDA study shows a cost of production per cwt range of approximately \$4.50 among dairy farms of all sizes, family-size dairies on the upper end and large dairies on the lower end of the scale. Therefore, we support a two-tier pricing system under one national Federal Milk Marketing Order with at least a \$4.00 per cwt price adjustment for all farms up to 1 million pounds of monthly production. Dumping milk during times of National Food Insecurity is completely contrary to the principles of National Farmers. We favor and support programs intended to balance production and consumption. These programs would necessarily satisfy the following criteria: (1) That the needs of the nation’s food-deprived families be met; (2) That farm gate prices for producers meet the cost of production plus a reasonable profit; (3) That the share of the nation’s milk supply sourced from family farms be increased.

Bargaining

National Farmers Organization continues its steadfast opposition to legislation that would authorize additional federal supervision of bargaining. The Organization supports federal bargaining legislation that has the potential to improve and enhance the market position of contract growers.

National Farmers Organization continues to support the concept of Marketing Agencies in Common by legally organized cooperatives and farmer associations to increase their collective bargaining power on behalf of their farmer members.

Rural America and Communities

1) Rural communities are entitled to communication technology access, such as the Internet and new and emerging technologies, at reasonable cost. Rural areas need access to high speed internet service.

2) National Farmers Organization encourages farmers, rural residents and businesses to support the Institute for Rural America, created to bring attention to the mutual importance and interdependence of farmers, rural residents, businesses, schools, churches and communities.

3) National Farmers Organization supports annual Rural Utility Service (RUS, formerly REA) electric and telephone loan levels for both the new insured and guaranteed loan programs that adequately meet the capital needs of rural electric and telephone systems in order to insure dependable electric and telephone service in rural areas at reasonable cost.

4) National Farmers Organization supports federal financing for research, development and expansion of broadband communication technology over electric transmission lines as well as any other realistic technology for broadband services to rural areas.

5) National Farmers Organization also reaffirms its support for supplemental financing through the rural electric's self-help lending institutions, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation and the Rural Telephone Bank.

6) National Farmers Organization supports limiting the role of the Federal Government and keeping control of the electrical power generation and distribution and the process of deregulation in the hands of the states.

Other Policy Positions

Strengthen the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with mandatory funding with new enrollment rates set at 90 percent of the county rental average.

National Farmers Organization opposes any reductions to the Renewable Fuels Act (RFA), and opposes the granting of waivers at this present time.

National Farmers Organization supports working with the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance (FACA). We believe that policies relating to climate change should be science-based and that voluntary options regarding incentives should be encouraged, including income incentives for agricultural producers which would then strengthen rural communities.