



Strategic Issues Action Plan 2022

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.

- **Agricultural Labor:**
 - Achieve meaningful legislation that helps farmers and ranchers meet their labor needs.
 - Update H-2A rules to enhance farmers' ability to hire the workers they need.
- **Farm Policy:**
 - Surface proposals for inclusion in the 2023 farm bill.
 - Set the stage for bipartisan farm bill discussions.
- **Infrastructure:**
 - Increase resources to expand rural access to reliable, high-speed broadband service.
 - Ensure authorized resources are responsibly and efficiently allocated to 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:**
 - Defend recent improvements to environmental regulations including the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, National Environmental Policy Act procedural updates, and the Endangered Species Act habitat rules.
 - 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 work for a regulatory environment that enables farmers and ranchers to be productive as well as environmentally and economically sustainable.
 - Ensure that renewable energy sources such as U.S.-grown biofuels are utilized to their full potential.
- **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 regulatory and administrative actions that decrease port congestion, reduce barriers to employment, speed up transportation of goods via rail and highway, and ease inflationary pressures.
 - Support infrastructure investments that foster long-term growth in production, processing, trade and distribution.
 - Expand agricultural processing capacity and enhance market transparency.
 - Provide support to small, intrastate meat and poultry processing plants to attain federal inspection.
 - 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 sustainability for farmers and ranchers.
 - Provide 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:**
 - Secure permanent estate tax and capital gains tax law that allows family-owned farms and ranches to transfer from one generation to another.
 - Make low-income tax rates and business deductions permanent to permit farmers and ranchers to keep more of their earnings and invest in their businesses.
 - Lock in tax code provisions that allow farm and ranch operations to match expenses with income so they can manage the seasonal and cyclical nature of their businesses.
- **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 reform of the World Trade Organization.