



## 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.