



2010
Program of
Policy & Action



2010 NDFU Policy and Action

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1. **PREAMBLE**

2.

3. The basic aims of Farmers Union are based upon our understanding of God and nature. We believe in this
4. nation, which holds the greatest hope for eternal freedom for humanity everywhere.

5.

6. Guided by our cooperative, legislative and educational goals, as illustrated by the Farmers Union triangle,
7. we are dedicated to the advancement of the profession of family farm agriculture and to providing a quality
8. of life for people everywhere.

9.

10. We, the members of North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU), are committed to providing effective grassroots
11. leadership in rural America and to significantly increase net farm income, improve the quality of rural life
12. and increase North Dakota's rural population so that family farmers and rural communities can thrive and
13. prosper.

14.

15. We reaffirm our convictions of the truth and rightness of the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence,
16. the Constitution of the United States and its Bill of Rights.

17.

18. Only the family farm system of agricultural production can provide the opportunities of individual enterprise
19. to all farm families in our society. No other system can achieve the economic and social stability, the soil and
20. environmental stewardship and the production efficiency of the family farm.

21.

22. Ownership, operation and management of a farm unit should be vested within the family who farms and
23. makes a livelihood from that farm unit. Policies which encourage the separation of ownership, operation or
24. management of farm units are contrary to the interests of family farmers.

25.

26. State and federal programs must be targeted to benefit and protect the family farm. These policies can be
27. initiated through persistent and consistent efforts by family farmers working in solidarity with other sectors
28. of our society.

29.

30. The combined objectives set forth in this Policy Statement are adopted for the purpose of firmly re-establishing
31. the family farm structure as the primary system for agricultural production, rural and urban stability, national
32. prosperity, the preservation of human and natural resources and the dignity of the individual and the family.

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- 1. H. We urge USDA to distinguish between imported and American-grown agricultural products in U.S.
- 2. production numbers.
- 3.
- 4. I. NDFU proposes that federal and state agencies coordinate and share information in order to avoid
- 5. duplication of services and reduce cost to producers. (For example, Risk Management Agency,
- 6. Crop Insurance Adjustors, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, etc.)
- 7.
- 8. J. We oppose mandatory closing or consolidation of FSA or NRCS offices.

9. **FEDERAL AG POLICY**

10. We urge Congress to establish a federal watch dog division that our FSA, NRCS, Fish and Wildlife must

11. be held accountable for their actions in dealing with farmers and rural issues.

12.

13. North Dakota Farmers Union urges the President, Attorney General and Congress to direct the United

14. States Drug Enforcement Administration to differentiate between industrial hemp and marijuana, and

15. adopt a policy to allow American farmers to once again grow industrial hemp, thereby legalizing the

16. production of industrial hemp and its use in American manufacturing efforts, without requiring DEA

17. licenses.

18.

10. **STATE AGRICULTURAL POLICY**

20. The vast majority of North Dakota's wealth comes from agriculture. The North Dakota Department of

21. Agriculture should have adequate funds available to actively promote the agriculture industry in North

22. Dakota and should have jurisdiction over all agriculture commissions and agencies in the state.

23.

- 24. A. The state of North Dakota should make every effort to develop reciprocal agreements with its
- 25. neighboring states to provide for livestock brand inspection and disease control measures.
- 26.
- 27. B. We support movement of public funds collected for brand registration, brand inspections and estrays
- 28. to be moved to the appropriate state agency.
- 29.
- 30. C. We support adequate federal, state and county funding and urge strict enforcement of laws that would
- 31. assure the control of noxious weeds, such as leafy spurge, and insects, such as grasshoppers, on
- 32. state, federal, public and private land, including wildlife land, railroad and highway right-of-ways
- 33. and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreages. We particularly urge increased emphasis in
- 34. the development of biological controls within coordinated weed and pest control programs.
- 35.
- 36. D. We urge NDSU, the North Dakota Agriculture Department, the ND Legislature and SBARE to
- 37. promote increased livestock production, dairy production, and other alternative livestock production
- 38. and processing in North Dakota.
- 39.
- 40. E. We urge the North Dakota Legislature and the governor to support the funding of agricultural
- 41. research. Recognizing the adverse economic impact on North Dakota, we support stepping up research