



## **FAMILY FARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE 2019 SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Climate change jeopardizes the livelihoods of U.S. family farmers, ranchers, and rural residents. Without immediate and decisive action, climate change will disrupt all sectors of the national and global economy and pose risks to the food supply and human health and well-being. Farmers need to have a seat at the table as the new political frameworks to address climate change are being developed.

Family farmers and ranchers have been significantly impacted by the changing climate, which has caused shifts in growing seasons, altered precipitation patterns, and increasingly severe and frequent natural disasters. At the same time, family farms are uniquely positioned to mitigate climate as healthy soils and vegetation remove existing greenhouse gases from the earth's atmosphere.

In order to empower family farmers to lessen the negative impacts of climate change, NFU supports policies, collaborations with consumers, and efforts throughout the agricultural value chain that:

- Support research, cost-share and other incentives to help family farmers install and manage practices and infrastructure that mitigate climate change and sequester carbon;
- Encourage USDA Climate Hubs to coordinate climate information, agronomic and risk management support, and programs that enhance marketing options to allow family farmers to effectively utilize opportunities to enhance profits while mitigating climate change;
- Encourage energy efficiency, renewable energy production, and further development of the bioeconomy on family farms and in rural communities;
- Encourage cooperation and collaboration among family farmers to build and expand market infrastructure that will allow consumers to choose agricultural products that create climate benefits;
- Provide new opportunities for family farmers to articulate their climate mitigation efforts with consumers through food processors and retailers;
- Protect family farmland from carbon intensive suburban sprawl development; and
- Protect competition in the markets that family farmers buy from and sell into, allowing for more opportunities to make decisions that benefit soil and the landscape rather than farming within the narrow prescriptive demands of excessively consolidated markets.