EXPLORING CLIMATE ACTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

THURSDAY, OCT. 8, 2020
Presentation to the National Conference of State Legislatures:

“Exploring Climate Action Opportunities for Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture”

Jenny Hopkinson
Sr. Government Relations Representative
October 8, 2020
We envision...

A world in which farm families and their communities are respected, valued, and enjoy economic prosperity and social justice.

Our mission is to...

Advocate for family farmers and their communities through education, cooperation, and legislation.
The Farm Economy

Real Net Farm Income and Government Payments

Billions USD (2020)


Net Farm Income  Misc. Program Payments  Net Farm Income - Misc. Payments
Wet weather sets record for prevented planting

In 2019, the number of cultivated acres that could not be planted surged to a new record. More than 73 percent of prevented planting was in 12 Midwestern states, where heavy rainfall and flooding thwarted planting of corn, soybeans and wheat.

U.S. prevented planting
IN MILLIONS OF ACRES

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency
By Patterson Clark, POLITICO Pro DataPoint
5.3 inch Rainfall Event

**Management:**
- No-till Crop Rotation
- Cover Crops
- Planned Grazing Management

**Management:**
- Conventional Tillage
- Small Grains
- No Cover Crops
- No Grazing

Infiltration Rate = 6 in/hr

Infiltration Rate = 0.6 in/hr

143,906 gallons of water/Ac Stored

16,507 gallons of water/Ac Stored

Source: https://twitter.com/jimmy_emmons/status/105966868003250176
Climate-Smart Agriculture

• Voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs
• On-farm energy production and biofuels
• Market-based incentives
• Research
Stay Connected

NFU.org/connect

Facebook
National Farmers Union

Twitter
NFUDC

Instagram
nationalfarmersunion
Select Committee
Majority Staff Climate Action Plan

• June 2020
• Recommendations to Congress on ways to confront the climate crisis
• All sectors of the economy, nature-based solutions, labor, environmental justice
• Climatecrisis.house.gov/report
Agriculture in the Climate Action Plan

- Extensive input and feedback from farmers, ranchers, and agricultural organizations
- Farmers and ranchers are active partners in solving the climate crisis
- Huge opportunity for American agriculture to be a critical component in the climate solution
Carbon Sequestration in Agricultural Soils

- Dramatically increase federal investments in USDA conservation programs
  - CSP
  - EQIP
  - RCPP
  - CRP
  - ACEP
  - HFRP
- Agroforestry
- National climate stewardship practice goals
- Organic agriculture
- State soil health initiatives
- Etc
Reduce Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Agriculture is responsible for about 9% of total U.S. GHGs
- Nitrous oxide from fertilizer
- Methane from livestock production
Increase Capacity for Technical Assistance

- Increase NRCS staff for on the ground support
- Support conservation districts, extension, NGOs, land grant colleges, etc.
- Public-private partnerships
- Farmer-to-farmer outreach and education
- Additional research at USDA and outside partners
Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

• CO2 emissions from routine on-farm fuel use and equipment can be reduced by energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy projects
• Increased funding for REAP
• Support for farmers transitioning to low-emissions equipment
• Dual-use energy systems to integrate renewable energy projects with crops and livestock
Support Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

- Increase and expand USDA programs that support new, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers
- Incorporate climate smart agriculture
- Coordinate with tribal nations and engage EJ communities
Preserve Farmland

- Keep working lands working lands
- Avoid converting natural spaces to cropland
Food Waste and Transportation

- Support local and regional food systems
- Develop goals and initiatives to reduce food waste
Thank you!

Mackenzie Landa, Counsel, U.S. House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, majority staff
Mackenzie.landa@mail.house.gov
Questions?