

Policy of the National Farmers Union
Enacted by delegates to the 108th annual convention
Rapid City, S.D.
March 14-16, 2010

funding for a safety net program to allow producers to earn the cost of production plus a reasonable profit from the marketplace.

NFU supports:

a) USDA's promotion of buying local agricultural products, such as the "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative, as a means to provide new and larger markets for smaller specialty crop farmers. Local will be defined by the consumer to be the immediate area, state or region but must be U.S. produced;

b) Promotion of farm-to-school and farm-to-institution programs;

c) Promotion of farmers' markets and community-supported agriculture (CSA) to allow consumers greater access to fresh produce and to allow smaller-scale farmers opportunities to market directly to consumers;

d) Mandatory funding for the Specialty Crop Act. Specialty crop block grants that are provided to states should be provided to producers and not supplant state budgets;

e) Collaboration with consumer, culinary and other food groups to promote U.S. specialty crops;

f) Protection for specialty crop producers from imports during the primary harvest season for perishable crops (window of harvest);

g) The purchase of surplus fruits and vegetables through Section 32 and bonus buy programs for distribution through federal food aid programs;

h) All programs in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program, including Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, and the Farmers' Market Women Infant and Children (WIC) coupon program. These programs are mutually beneficial for specialty crop producers by providing a market opportunity and low-income consumers who receive high-quality, locally produced farm fresh products;

i) Removal of barriers and provide incentives so that farmers markets and farm stands can redeem food stamps, WIC coupons and other federal nutrition program vouchers;

j) Geographically Disadvantaged provisions for U.S. areas not included in main farm programs, including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico; and

k) Urging the President, Attorney General and Congress to direct the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to differentiate between industrial hemp and marijuana and adopt policy to allow American farmers to grow industrial hemp under state law without requiring DEA licenses.

9. Honey/Pollination

Pollinators are vital to agriculture and in particular the production of fruits and vegetables. Bee pollinated forage and hay crops such as clover and alfalfa are also used to feed livestock and dairy animals. Introduced parasites have had a significant impact on honey bees in the U.S. Undetermined factors have lead to an observed collapse in the bee populations, commonly referred to Colony Collapse Disorder. Therefore NFU supports:

a) Agricultural research and education to encourage innovative approaches to protecting honeybee health and improve genetic stocks of honeybees;

b) Development and expanded research to enhance native pollinators;