

New England Farmers Union Farm Bill Information Session

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Boston Museum of Science

Farm Bill Teach-In

January 29, 2012



New England Farmers Union

1,500 members and growing

Farmers, farm organizations, food co-ops and farm businesses

Farm Bill Platform and Policy Book:

[http://www.newenglandfarmersunion.org/
CC_pdfs/NEFUFarmBillPlatform.pdf](http://www.newenglandfarmersunion.org/CC_pdfs/NEFUFarmBillPlatform.pdf)

[http://newenglandfarmersunion.org/
policybook.html](http://newenglandfarmersunion.org/policybook.html)



New England Farmers Union

- Federal farm legislation
- Grassroots Policy development
- Advocacy in support of small, mid-sized, diverse and diversified farms and fisheries in New England.



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Farm Bill Priorities

- Conservation
- Local and Regional Food Systems
- Safety net for small and mid-sized dairy farmers
- Organic Agriculture
- Rural and Co-operative Development
- Beginning Farmers



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Conservation Title Priorities:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program
- Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and Grasslands Reserve Program
- Regional Equity
- Higher EQIP Cost Share Rates for Beginning Farmers (BFROA)



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Organic Priorities:

- Mandatory Funding for the Organic Certification Cost Share program
- Eliminate price and premium discrimination for organic producers in crop insurance programs
- Fund a new research initiative to develop public seeds and breeds, locally adapted
- Increase funding for the Organic Research and Extension Initiative.



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Marker Bills:

- Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act (S. 1773, H.R. 3286)
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act (S. 1850, H.R. 3236)



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LFFJA Overview:

1. Income and financial support for local/regional producers
2. Financial support to build local/regional food system infrastructure
3. Expand access to healthy local foods for consumers
4. Enhance research and extension services



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LFFJA Highlights:

- **Local Marketing Promotion Program** – formerly the Farmers Market Promotion Program plus funding for larger scale, non-direct local marketing – at \$30 million per year
- Increase the **Business and Industry Loan** funding set-aside for local and regionally produced agriculture products and food enterprises
- **Improve SNAP participant access** to farmers markets, CSAs, and other direct marketing venues
- **Allow schools** the option to use a portion of their school lunch commodity dollars for the **purchase of local and regional foods**



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LFFJA Highlights:

- Expand **Value-Added Producer Grant Program** to food hubs and underserved states/communities
- Create whole-farm revenue **insurance** product for specialty crop producers, livestock/mixed-grain farmers
- Expand uses of Specialty Crop Block Grants to support the development of local and regional food systems



Call and urge to co-sponsor the LFFJA:

**Capitol Switchboard
202-224-3121**

**Senator John Kerry
Senator Scott Brown**

House Members:

[Neal, Richard E.](#)

[Capuano, Michael E.](#)

[Lynch, Stephen F.](#)

[Keating, William](#)



Take Action

How can you help?

- Respond to action alerts
- Contact and maintain relationships with lawmakers
- Attend and participate in DC fly-ins (April & Sept)
- Issue public statements and op-eds
- Use NEFU and NFU as resources
- Attend field hearings



Contact Us

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