



National Farmers Union

N E W S R E L E A S E

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NFU Delegates Outline Agriculture in a Renewable Energy Economy

RAPID CITY, S.D. (March 16, 2010) – National Farmers Union (NFU) delegates today adopted a special order of business calling on policy makers to consider the unique challenges facing rural America when debating policy solutions regarding the nation's energy needs.

“Farmers and ranchers enrolled in the voluntary carbon market require greater policy certainty,” said NFU President Roger Johnson. “Carbon credit prices have plummeted during the ongoing climate change policy debate in Congress with the result being nearly \$150 million in losses.”

NFU delegates called on policy makers to address the following provisions when considering future climate and renewable energy legislation:

- USDA to promulgate rules and to administer an agricultural offset program;
- Not to set an artificial cap on the use of domestic offset allowances;
- Establishes carbon sequestration rates based on science;
- Recognizes and treats fairly early actors;
- Allows for stackable credits; and
- Minimizes potential negative effects to agriculture and rural communities such as increased input costs, elevated electricity costs and decreased global competitiveness.

“There is strong consensus among the scientific community that greenhouse gas emissions are resulting in global climate change,” said Johnson. “Conservation practices already adopted and in place have multiple benefits including carbon sequestration and energy efficiency.”

NFU delegates also called for a balanced renewable energy policy that provides greater energy independence, recognizes special energy needs of agriculture, and creates a renewable energy standard that is broadly applied and provides for community based projects.

National Farmers Union has been working since 1902 to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities through advocating grassroots-driven policy positions adopted by its membership.

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