



***A Local Voice at  
the National Table***

## **New England Prepares for the 2012 Farm Bill**

**September 12-15, 2010, Washington, DC**

### **National Farmers Union Annual Fly-In**

**Need:** New England is on the periphery of national farm policy and programs. Of the \$180 billion in the 2008 Farm Bill, less than 5% was returned to New England states. Programs for the region are often threatened. For example, the House Agriculture Committee recently proposed to move money from EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) which funds many conservation projects on New England farms, to the National Farm to School Program, a program that also benefits New England. This political maneuver to “rob Peter to pay Paul,” pits good programs against good programs and puts New England in a disadvantageous position.

More farmers are coming to and farming in New England. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of farms in all six states grew from between 19% to 27%. Young people are going into the business, and consumers are passionate about the region’s agriculture. New England Farmers Union’s goal is to develop an army of knowledgeable food and food system advocates so that the 2012 Farm Bill will direct more federal programs and federal dollars to our region’s dynamic agriculture sector.

**Objective:** Educate 30 members of the New England Farmers Union about national legislation – how it is developed and implemented. Over a three day period, meet with US Department of Agriculture and White House personnel to learn about program development. Visit with 35 members of the New England Congressional delegation to advocate for programs and policies that will benefit New England farmers and fishermen. Return home with a legislative agenda for New England for the 2012 Farm Bill and a group of committed advocates who will lead discussions in their states about New England’s stake in that bill’s development and outcome.

#### **Budget for 30 New England Farmers Union Members**

Transportation: \$200 stipend per attendee=\$6,000

Lodging: 3 nights in DC hotel @ \$180/night=\$16,200

Food: \$40 per person for first night training at hotel=\$1,200

Printing for “New England Speaks Out” issues handout: \$750

**Total Cost: \$24,150**

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**About NEFU:** A grass-roots organization with membership-driven policy, New England Farmers Union works to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life of family farmers, fishermen, foresters and consumers in all six New England states. With over 900 members and founded in 2006, NEFU is the youngest charter member of the National Farmers Union, a 108 year old agricultural advocacy organization based in D.C. For more information visit [www.newenglandfarmersunion.org](http://www.newenglandfarmersunion.org).

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