



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

Policy of New England Farmers Union: Development and Adoption of NEFU Policy Book

The Policy Committee of the New England Farmers Union (NEFU) board of directors will compile changes to the NEFU policy book throughout the year, based on proposals from members and modifications developed by the Committee itself. Each year, the policy book with proposed revisions will be made available to the membership no fewer than 30 days before the annual meeting. At the annual meeting, members will be asked to vote on the policy book as revised. At the Policy Committee's discretion, votes may be taken on specific policy proposals prior to a vote on the policy book as revised.

Guidelines for policy proposals:

- NEFU Members in good standing may submit proposed revisions or additions to the policy book at any time.
- Proposals must be submitted using the official form, available on the NEFU website.
- Proposals received at least 45 days prior to the NEFU annual meeting will be reviewed by the Policy Committee, which will decide whether or not to approve a proposal as submitted, approve it with revisions, or reject it. A majority vote of the Policy Committee shall be required to move the proposal on to the annual meeting for consideration.
- Individuals who submit proposals may be called upon to discuss their proposals with the Committee.
- It shall be the Policy Committee's responsibility to determine if the proposed revision or addition requires changes to other language in the book in order to avoid contradictory positions, and to amend the proposal or other language if needed.
- The Policy Committee may also propose revisions or additions to the policy book. A majority vote by the Committee shall be required to move its proposed revisions or additions on to the annual meeting for consideration.
- Proposals and the decisions of the Policy Committee will be published on the NEFU website no less than 20 days prior to the annual meeting. Members will be notified of their availability for review.

P. O. Box 226
5 State Street 3rd floor
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413.522.5020 *cell*
413.625.3051 *land*
413.625.3061 *fax*

www.newenglandfarmersunion.org

- NEFU Members in good standing may also propose revisions or additions to the policy book from the floor during the annual meeting. Proposals must be submitted in writing, using the NEFU form, and the author of the proposal identified. The author may be asked to clarify or speak to the proposal. The Chair of the Policy Committee or the Chair’s designee will be asked to comment on the proposal, and may recommend amendments to the proposal or that the proposal be referred to the Committee for additional review and discussion. Discussion on any proposal made from the floor will be limited to a maximum of five minutes, unless a majority of members present vote to allow further discussion.
- A majority vote of members present is required for passage of any individual policy proposals, and for adoption of the policy book, with any revisions, for the following year.

FOR THE 2011 CALENDAR YEAR ONLY:

- To encourage further refinement and development of NEFU policy positions, NEFU members will be given an additional opportunity in 2011 to propose and consider policy book revisions or additions.
- In addition to the annual policy process outlined above, NEFU members will be asked to review and vote on revisions to the 2011 policy book in June of 2011.
- NEFU members may submit proposed revisions or additions to the 2011 policy book to the Policy Committee on or before March 31, 2011. Proposals submitted by this time will be reviewed by the Policy Committee, and decisions of the Committee on all proposals will be made and posted for review no less than 30 days prior to the date of the mid-year vote of the membership.
- The Policy Committee may also propose revisions or additions to the policy book for the mid-year meeting. Any proposed revisions or additions to the policy book from the Policy Committee will be posted for review no less than 30 days prior to the date of the mid-year meeting.
- A majority vote of the Policy Committee is required for all proposed revisions or additions, offered either by individual members or by the committee itself, to move the proposal on for consideration during the mid-year vote.
- Members will be notified when proposed policy revisions or additions are posted to the NEFU website.

Adopted: 12/10/10

NEFU Policy Committee Members

Marge Kilkelly, Chair
 Annie Cheatham
 Ed Maltby
 Dorn Cox
 Steve Taylor
 Noah Fulmer
 Jeff LaFleur
 Susan Phinney
 Erbin Crowell
 Tim O’Connell

Non-NEFU Board members who supported development

Russell Libby
 Lucinda Williams
 Jack Kittredge
 Kathy Ruhf
 Bob Wagner
 Winton Pitcoff
 Jim Gerritsen
 Cris Coffin