

Federal Priorities for 2017

Transportation

The U.S. transportation infrastructure should be modernized to enhance U.S. agriculture's global competitiveness.

- Allow increases in truck weights to current pilot program levels.
- Enact a pilot program for drivers under 21 to qualify for a Commercial Driver's License and a hazmat endorsement.
- Upgrade our river transportation system locks to 1,200 ft. and begin construction on new locks.

Water Quality

Nutrient management programs should be based in science, flexible to specific locations, voluntary, rely on our land grant university system, and use modern agriculture practices.

Sustainability

Sustainability programs for agriculture systems should be science-based, voluntary and industry driven to encourage innovation. Programs should include consideration for environmental, social, economic, and scientific sustainability.

Energy Policy

A national energy policy should develop secure, reliable sources of energy; encourage updates and improvements to our nation's energy distribution infrastructure; and approve the XL Pipeline. Improvements to renewable fuels programs should enhance distribution and infrastructure for fueling all vehicles, promote consistent quality, and increase use of fuel from renewable sources.

Taxes

Tax reform provisions should provide predictability; retain tax deductions for agriculture; make permanent tax credits for agriculture that have been extended last year; and enhance the business climate in the U.S.

Waters of the United States

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule to revise the definition of "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) should be repealed.

Climate Change

Greenhouse gas emission reduction can be accomplished through stewardship programs, new uses of technology, and production systems that minimize costs to agriculture while maintaining our global competitiveness.

Food Safety & Labeling

Food safety requirements should be determined at the national level and science-based.

Regulatory Review Process

Registration of crop input and protection products such as seed and pesticide should be science-based, transparent, and follow the Administrative Procedures Act for rulemaking.

Pension Benefit Guarantee Program

The Pension Benefit Guarantee Program should be reformed to assure premiums for all single and multiple employer pension programs are reflective of actual loss experience.