The 2023 Farm Bill should provide farmers with a strong, stable safety net that protects farmers and ranchers from market and weather volatility. North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU) urges Congress to protect crop insurance, which provides a critical risk management tool. Congress should also strengthen the farm safety net, establish and improve permanent disaster programs, and enact farmer-friendly climate provisions.

**Strengthen the Farm Safety Net**
The farm safety net should ensure family farmers and ranchers can achieve sustainable net farm income. We support changes to the existing safety net that:

- Establish a “dual enrollment option” that allows farmers to receive the higher of the Agricultural Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage calculated payment;
- Increase reference prices to reflect increases in production costs;
- Provide advance farm safety net payments, so producers can secure some relief during the marketing year in which losses occur; and
- Close farm program eligibility loopholes to ensure support is directed to family farmers and ranchers.

**Establish and Improve Permanent Disaster Programs**
Each year since the 2018 Farm Bill passed, farmers and ranchers have been forced to rely on ad hoc disaster programs. While badly needed, these programs provided uncertain and inconsistent relief. We urge Congress to:

- Establish a permanent disaster program that supplements crop insurance indemnities when widespread natural disasters occur; and
- Strengthen the Livestock Forage Program and Livestock Indemnity Program to ensure payments accurately reflect forage and livestock losses.

**Enact Farmer-Friendly Climate Provisions**
Family farmers and ranchers can play a key role in mitigating climate change by storing carbon in soils. We believe policies intended to address climate change should leverage agriculture’s potential to be a part of the solution. We urge Congress to establish farmer-friendly climate provisions that:

- Create voluntary, not mandatory, options that support farmers and ranchers who adopt conservation practices;
- Increase flexibility for existing conservation programs and provide sufficient funding to meet demand;
- Increase payments for conservation practices that deliver the greatest environmental benefits; and
- Research the costs and benefits of climate-smart agriculture practices.