



# A Northeast Farm Bill Agenda: 10 Priorities for the 2007 Farm Bill

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## Background

Congress is expected to enact a new Farm Bill in 2007 which will have profound impacts on our food, farms, landscapes, health, economy, and environment. Historically, the Northeast region has not been well served by previous Farm Bills and by federal farm policy in general. We can change that.

2007 offers an historic opportunity for Northeasterners to speak in a strong and unified voice for federal policies that are equitable and more responsive to the unique characteristics of our region.

## User guide

The purpose of this Northeast Farm Bill Agenda is to articulate and promote Farm Bill priorities for the Northeast – ten “must have” farm and food policy objectives that specifically address the characteristics and needs of the Northeast U.S. The Agenda is an outcome from the November 2006 Northeast Policy Summit which was convened by the Northeast Ag Works! Project. It represents general agreement among many groups and addresses farm viability and economic development, conservation, and food and nutrition.

The full Agenda contains explanations, policy options and links to resources, bills, proposals and groups. It can be found at [www.northeastagworks.org](http://www.northeastagworks.org).

This Agenda is not an endorsement of any specific bill or proposal. It is an organizing and advocacy tool designed to:

- Present the case for our region and guide our Northeast Congressional delegation
- Encourage and assist groups to address policy details and differences
- Help Northeast groups prioritize their advocacy activities and develop strong and consistent messages

## A 2007 Farm Bill that is responsive to the Northeast...

1. Provides appropriate safety net and risk management tools for Northeast farmers.
2. Fosters economic and regional market development.
3. Supports the Northeast dairy industry.
4. Provides incentives for regionally appropriate farm energy production and efficiency.
5. Significantly increases funding for working lands conservation programs.
6. Provides appropriate conservation program flexibility to address national, state and local resource concerns and priorities.
7. Provides more conservation technical assistance with greater flexibility in how it can be used.
8. Assures food security for all Northeast citizens.
9. Promotes access to fresh, local and culturally appropriate foods for Northeast consumers.
10. Encourages and promotes programs that reflect national health goals and nutrition guidelines.

In the coming months, you will see many proposals concerning the next Farm Bill. Please help support those that advance our agenda. Help build a strong Northeast food and farming system.