



Northeast
Agribusiness
& Feed Alliance

State Legislative Priorities 2020

*“The mission of the **Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance** is to speak with a collective voice and advocate for our members, animal agriculture and other stakeholders in New York and the six New England states.”*



Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance

Advocate • Educate • Collaborate

2020 Legislative Priorities

Agricultural Production

1. The Alliance supports the rights of farmers to utilize science-based animal and crop production technologies and animal care practices in the management of their farms.
2. The Alliance acknowledges current federal food labeling programs and requirements and does not support state-based food labeling mandates for the purpose of absence labeling or identifying production practices.
3. The Alliance supports utilization of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 2016 (TSCA) as the basis for state and federal chemical permitting systems. We do not support state policies that usurp federal law.

International Trade

1. The Alliance recognizes the critical role of international trade for maintaining the economic viability of the US agriculture industry. The US agriculture industry has significantly invested in and benefitted from international trade agreements and they have provided platforms for resolving disputes. The Alliance stands with the greater agriculture community and calls for rapid resolution of current trade disputes. Further we call for the return to multinational trade agreements.

Labor

1. The Alliance supports comprehensive immigration reform measures that include effective guest worker programs to accommodate the need for foreign labor for the maintenance of a robust agricultural system.
2. The Alliance recognizes the significant economic impact of mandatory wage rates and costly mandatory wage benefits on the production agriculture sector. The organization opposes the development of mandatory overtime wage rates, mandatory paid sick days, and mandatory collective bargaining and minimum wage increases for farm workers that do not accommodate for the inherent externally driven realities of agricultural production.

Transportation

1. The Alliance supports access to affordable and efficient transportation systems including rail, water and roadways and supports state and federal initiatives to invest in infrastructure improvements.
2. The Alliance supports reasonable improvements to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act's Hours of Service rule that will address practical issues related to the transport and delivery of agricultural animals, crops, commodities, feed, feed ingredients and fertilizer.
3. The Alliance supports continued scrutiny of rail rates and service issues, by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, to address commodity transportation challenges plaguing the agriculture industry

Food / Feed Safety

1. The Alliance supports implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act, including current good manufacturing practices, in a manner that demonstrates transparency to the agriculture producers and processors, feed manufacturers and consumers. Industry education and training should continue to be readily available.

Environmental Conservation

1. The Alliance supports the original legislative intent of the Clean Water Act, to impose thoughtful regulation on navigable “waters of the US.”
2. The Alliance recognizes the value of technical assistance and cost share programs to assist farmers with environmental conservation projects and supports traditional and innovative funding approaches to soil and water protection.
3. The Alliance supports funding mechanisms for clean water initiatives that spread the cost of mitigation efforts equitably across all sectors impacting water quality.

Education, Research and Regulation

1. The Alliance supports adequate funding for our Colleges of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension systems throughout the Northeast.
2. The Alliance recognizes the significant contribution PRO-DAIRY has made to economic viability of the New York dairy industry and supports its continued funding by the State of New York. Further, we support the appropriation of funds by the State of Vermont to support PRO-DAIRY programs and resources available for Vermont dairy farmers
3. The Alliance supports state funded programs that address fundamental programmatic and research needs of the agriculture industry.
4. The Alliance recognizes the role of state departments and agencies of agriculture in regulation of activities impacting human, animal and environmental health and supports adequate funding to these agencies to assure that their work is carried out.
5. The Alliance supports the development of technical assistance programs and streamlined regulatory oversight of direct marketing and on-farm processing of agricultural products.

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