



Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance

Advocate • Educate • Collaborate

Policy Priorities for 2015

The following priorities are recommended for action on behalf of the Alliance during the upcoming year. The mission of the Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance is to speak with a collective voice and advocate for members, animal agriculture and other stakeholders in New York and the six New England states. Furthermore, we recognize the need to support our colleges and universities and departments of agriculture.

- 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.
- The Alliance acknowledges appropriate voluntary consumer labeling programs for food and does not support mandatory food labeling for the purpose of identifying specific production practices.
- 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.
- The Alliance supports development of technical assistance within state and federal governments, land grant universities, private service provider and the cooperative extension systems, to assist businesses with compliance with Food Safety Modernization Act and Occupational Safety and Health Administration mandates.
- The Alliance supports the original legislative intent of the Clean Water Act, to impose thoughtful regulation on *navigable* “waters of the state.”
- The Alliance recognizes the negative effect of mandatory wage rates and mandatory paid sick days on business growth and employment opportunities and the impact of wage increases on the cost to agricultural producers of goods and services. The organization opposes the development of mandatory overtime wage rates, mandatory paid sick days, and collective bargaining for farm workers.
- The Alliance supports utilization of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA) as the basis for state and federal chemical permitting systems.
- The Alliance recognizes the role of state departments and agencies of agriculture in regulation of agricultural activity and supports adequate funding to these agencies to assure that their work is carried out.
- The Alliance supports adequate funding for our Colleges of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension throughout the Northeast.

- 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.
- The Alliance supports access to affordable and efficient transportation systems including rail, water and roadways.
- The Alliance supports the development of technical assistance programs and streamlined regulatory oversight of direct marketing and on-farm processing of agricultural products.
- The Alliance supports definitions of agricultural labor and related allowances and exemptions granted to farms that are in line with modern farming practices and activities.
- The Alliance acknowledges the distinction between seasonal and full time farm employees and therefore does not support the enforcement of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act upon dairy farms.

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