

# The National Farmers Union

The **National Farmers Union is a direct-membership voluntary organization** made up of Canadian farm families who share common goals. The NFU was founded in 1969, as a result of provincial farm unions amalgamating in order to tackle policy at the federal level. We believe that the problems facing farmers are common problems, and that we must work together to advance effective solutions.

The NFU works toward the development of economic and social policies that will maintain the family farm as the primary food-producing unit in Canada.

Our goal is to work together to achieve agricultural policies that will ensure dignity and security of income for farm families while enhancing the land for future generations.

The National Farmers Union is committed to:

- ensuring family farms are the primary unit of food production
- promoting environmentally safe farming practices
- farm women having an equal voice in shaping farm policy
- working for fair food prices for both farmers and consumers
- involving, educating and empowering young farmers
- building healthy, vibrant rural communities
- ensuring an adequate supply of safe, nutritious food for Canadians
- standing in solidarity with family farmers internationally

# The National Farmers Union has a democratic structure

The NFU is a direct membership organization – **each member has a vote**. No special privileges are held by commodity groups or agriculturally-related organizations.

Member families play a vital role in the NFU. They have an opportunity to put forward policy resolutions at local annual meetings, at district conventions and at provincial meetings. These policy resolutions are debated by the delegate body at the annual convention. Upon receiving approval by National Convention, NFU leadership is bound to adhere to these policy directives. This manner of operation provides farm families with 100% say in both policy and administrative matters of the NFU

Through annual delegates' meetings members elect their Board of Directors as well as representatives on the Women's Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee and International Program Committee.

The NFU has a regional structure to promote farmers organizing to address issues of a provincial or regional nature, and to ensure that there is representation from across Canada on the National Board.

In recognition of the role all family members play on the farm, the NFU elects a Women's President and Vice President and a Youth President and Vice President in addition to the President, Vice-President of Policy and Vice President of Operations. All of these officers have full privileges as members of the National Board, and play a key role in policy matters.

# Membership in the National Farmers Union

The National Farmers Union is unique among farm organizations in working for people's interests against corporate control of our food system.

**If you farm, your family may join as a Farm Family Member.** Every member of the farm family - including children, ages 14 to 21 - are full voting members of the Union. The NFU recognizes that every family member contributes to the farm by working on it directly or indirectly through off-farm employment. **If you are not a farmer and would like to support the NFU's work, you may join as an Associate Member.** Associate Members support the goals and work of the NFU but because they do not farm, they do not vote in the organization.

## Annual Membership Fees:

Farm Family Membership	\$195.00
Youth Membership (Ages 14-21)	\$ 98.00
Associate Membership	\$ 65.00

## The Advantages of an NFU Membership

- A strong voice in determining farm policy recommendations
- Current analysis of farm policy through the Union Farmer magazine and newsletter publications
- Access to researched policy briefs posted on our website.
- Use of farm tax services in some provinces
- Opportunity to work on important issues in coalition with other civil society organizations including Food Secure Canada and La Via Campesina

