

A Rural Stakeholders View of What is Needed

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**“Implications of a Changing Arctic on Water
Resources and Agriculture in the Central U.S.”**



Farmers Union- a Key Stakeholder

Nebraska Farmers Union:

- 102 year old grassroots general farm organization
- Represents irrigated & dryland farmers & ranchers
 - Various sizes from all 93 counties
 - Grow all kinds of crops and livestock
- Utilizing conventional and nonconventional practices
- We represent the rural communities they live in



Farmers Union- a Key Stakeholder

National Farmers Union:

- National Farmers Union is 113 years old
- Is the nation's second largest farm organization
- NFU sponsored a voluntary Cap & Trade program that rewarded farmers for carbon sequestration
 - The Board of Directors voted to make climate change the organization's #1 priority
 - John Hansen is NFU Treasurer



Our Stakeholder View Is Shaped by:

- Our experience in working with farmers and ranchers on carbon sequestration, climate change, and renewable energy issues for a dozen years
- NeFU has held over 600 outreach events across the state on climate change and renewable energy in the last 8 years
- We found that ag producers want to do the right thing, and will modify their cultural agricultural practices if given an economic incentive to do so

What Does Agriculture Want & Need?

1. Reliable & understandable information on which to make short, medium, and long term management decisions
2. Help processing the information, and the management options
3. Financial incentives to help adapt to changing weather patterns, including cropping, equipment, markets, and water use

What Does Agriculture Want & Need?

- 4. Private and public sector research for:
 - Stress tolerant crops
 - Crops that sequester more carbon
 - Water use and efficiency
 - Changing weather patterns
 - Soil building to increase water holding capacity and management systems research
 - Livestock production challenges from more heat stress and weather patterns

What Does Agriculture Want & Need?

- 5. Federal farm programs that encourage and support crop shifting needed to deal with climate change
- 6. Federal supports to harness the carbon sequestration potential of agriculture and forestry
- 7. Federal crop insurance products that help agriculture manage the growing weather based risks from climate change

What Does Agriculture Want & Need?

8. Societal recognition of the enormity of the challenges production agricultural will face as a result of changing weather conditions
9. The tools needed to make ongoing incremental management changes that head in a general direction
10. Changing the climate change dialog towards practical problem solving and solutions

What Does Agriculture Want & Need?

- In summary....
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Maximize carbon sequestration potential
- Focus on resiliency, and the water holding capacity of the soil
- Get the resources and help needed to make management and production changes

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