



Nebraska Farmers Union

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NeFU Brings Ten Participants to the National Farmers Union Fly-In

Lincoln, NE. Ten Nebraska Farmers Union (NeFU) members were among the 300 Farmers Union members from around the nation who participated in the 2023 National Farmers Union (NFU) Fall Fly-In last week in Washington, D.C. The NeFU group had individual meetings with the Nebraska Congressional Delegation as well as Representatives from New Jersey, Virginia, and Nevada.

In addition, NeFU President John Hansen was a member of a small group that met with high-ranking officials from EPA about NFU's ongoing dialogue with the EPA regarding biofuels, agricultural Right to Repair, changes to the definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act, and opportunities related to climate-smart agriculture.

Hansen was also a member of a small group that met with Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman Lina M. Khan and her top management team about NFU's ongoing dialogue with the Federal Trade Commission regarding NFU's Fairness for Farmers campaign; specifically, to provide an update on NFU's efforts on agricultural Right to Repair, ask for an update from the FTC on its Right to Repair enforcement efforts; and to level NFU's concerns with the proposed Kroger-Albertsons grocery stores merger.

This year's participants included NeFU Vice President Vern Jantzen of Plymouth; Farmers Union Midwest Agency (FUMA) General Manager Jeff Downing of Elkhorn; FUMA agent Kyle Wade and his wife Sarah of Grand Island; NeFU District 3 Board of Director Mary Alice Corman of Edgar, Lisa Orem of Lincoln, NeFU District 7 President Keith Dittich of Tilden, Alaiya Cave and Decker Gabriel-Woods of Omaha and NeFU President John Hansen of Lincoln.

Monday morning USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack spent over an hour briefing and answering questions with all the participants in the Monday morning briefing at USDA's Jefferson Auditorium. His presentation included his updated White Board presentation.

In addition, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Xochitl Torres Small, USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Zach Ducheneaux, and USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Robert Bonnie also made presentations and answered questions.

Monday afternoon NFU Fly-In participants attended a briefing on Capitol Hill from the House and Senate Majority and Minority lead staff on the status of the upcoming Farm Bill which was the focus of this year's Fly-In.

NeFU President John Hansen was extremely pleased with the positive meetings that were held with the Nebraska Congressional Delegation. "We had very positive discussions about the NFU list of suggestions for the Farm Bill. The meetings with FTC and EPA I attended were excellent. President Biden's historic Executive Order on Competition is being taken seriously by the regulatory agencies, and it supports NFU's "Fairness for Farmers" campaign that is having a very positive impact," Hansen concluded.