

NATIONAL BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION
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JUNE 2011 POLICY PAPER

FARM PROGRAMS & POLICY

1. NBGA opposes current farm bill funding reductions unless equitable reductions are made to all federal programs.
2. NBGA opposes reopening the 2008 Farm Bill.
3. NBGA opposes reductions in direct payment limitations, AGI limits and funding for the crop insurance program.
4. NBGA supports funding to upgrade information technology systems at USDA-FSA and USDA-RMA.
5. NBGA supports a permanent disaster program.

RESEARCH

1. NBGA supports the FY 2012 federal research funding priorities established by the National Barley Improvement Committee.
2. NBGA supports increasing Agricultural and Food Research Initiative funding but not at the expense of current ARS and NIFA programs.
3. NBGA supports the research and commercialization of transgenic barley by the US barley industry.

TRADE

1. **WTO Negotiations:**
 - a. NBGA calls on the US trade negotiators to preserve the ability of Congress to formulate an effective safety net for the U.S. barley industry.
2. **Bilateral Negotiations**
 - a. NBGA supports the administration's efforts on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).
 - b. NBGA encourages Congress to reform issues pertaining to the Trade Adjustment Act.
 - c. NBGA opposes exclusions of any commodities as part of a bilateral trade negotiation process.
 - d. NBGA supports passage and implementation of the following free trade agreements:
 - i. Colombia Free Trade Agreement
 - ii. Panama Free Trade Agreement
 - iii. South Korean Free Trade Agreement
 - e. NBGA supports implementation of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).
3. **Urea and Ammonium Nitrate Import Tariffs:** NBGA supports immediate suspension of U.S. anti-dumping import tariffs on urea and ammonium nitrate products.
4. **State Trading Entities:** NBGA supports the elimination of State Trading Enterprises (STEs).

5. **Trade Sanctions:**
 - a. NBGA opposes U.S. trade sanctions against other countries which inhibit market opportunities for U.S. barley producers.
 - b. NBGA supports increased trade and travel with Cuba.
6. **China:** NBGA strongly urges the Administration to aggressively pursue China's compliance with their WTO Accession Agreement.
7. **Market Development:** NBGA supports full funding of USDA-FAS programs (e.g. MAP and FMD) as authorized in the 2008 farm bill.
8. **Trade Liberalization Enforcement:** NBGA insists that the WTO take immediate steps to enforce compliance with previously negotiated commitments. Countries failing to comply with their commitments should be excluded from the benefits of trade liberalization.
9. **Export Credits:** NBGA supports the Export Credit Program.
10. **Embargoes and Sanctions:** NBGA opposes all trade embargoes or sanctions which inhibit the free export of all US agricultural products.

CROP INSURANCE / RISK MANAGEMENT

1. **Malt Barley Endorsement Options:** NBGA supports adjusting the malt barley endorsement to more accurately reflect malt industry quality standards; including accepted varieties, protein grades, germination, mold damage, thins and DON.
2. **Unit Structure:** NBGA supports optional unit structure and revenue protection for malting barley.
3. **Specialty Type Insurance:** NBGA supports the Specialty Type Barley insurance product and requests clarification and consistency in yield certification.
4. **Crop Insurance Reform:** NBGA supports the implementation of crop insurance reform, including but not limited to enhancement of current products, development of new products, and development of the infrastructure (e.g. information technology) necessary for reform to occur.
5. **Modification of Existing Crop Insurance Programs:** NBGA supports using an 80% of "T" yield to mitigate multi-year crop losses or utilization of a replacement "T" yield that reflects actual coverage levels.
6. **Irrigated Coverage:** NBGA urges the Risk Management Agency to allow irrigated coverage on acreage that suffers loss due to a change of government policy or other external forces beyond the control of the producer.
7. **Revenue Policies:** NBGA supports the expanded availability of revenue policies for barley which insure producers for yield, quality, and price risk.
8. **Multi-peril Crop Loss:** NBGA supports a multi-peril crop loss exceeding 90% of the crop value be written off as a total loss.
9. **Audits:** NBGA opposes the \$100,000 automatic audit trigger and supports a more market-based trigger.

GRAIN QUALITY

1. **Grain Testing:** NBGA recommends GIPSA continually review testing equipment, technology, and certification and only report results within the accuracy of the technology.
2. **Mold Damage:** NBGA recommends more uniform analysis of mold damage between FGIS and the barley industry.

TAXES

1. **Depreciation:** NBGA supports continuation of Section 179 of the IRS Code dealing with accelerated depreciation at not less than current levels.
2. **Capital Gains:** NBGA supports a reduction of capital gains tax for long term properties.
3. **Estate Tax Exemption:** NBGA supports the elimination of estate taxes while retaining a step up in basis.
4. **Excise and State Beer Fees & Taxes:** NBGA opposes increases in beer excise taxes and/or related fees.

TRANSPORTATION

1. **Railroad Competition Arbitration and Service:** NBGA supports legislative and administrative efforts to improve rail competition and service.
2. **Alliance for Rail Competition:** NBGA will continue its activity and support of the Alliance for Rail Competition (ARC).
3. **Rail Mergers:** NBGA opposes rail mergers and asks that U. S. producers be assured competitive access to all North American destinations.
4. **Truck Weight Limits:** NBGA encourages Congress to lift the freeze on truck weight limits on interstate and defense highways.
5. **Intrastate Commerce:** NBGA supports the exemption of farm trucks from U.S. Department of Transportation Interstate Commerce regulations when hauling commodities between two points within a single state.
6. **Waterways:**
 - a. NBGA supports full funding for completion of the Columbia River jetty project.
 - b. NBGA opposes draw-downs and/or breaching of dams on rivers that would restrict barge traffic.
 - c. NBGA supports reform of the Jones Act, which would authorize reflagging of foreign built ships to allow shipment of U.S. agriculture products.
 - d. NBGA supports funding for river system maintenance.
7. **Bumper Exemption:** NBGA supports an exemption of bumpers on agricultural trucks.
8. **Hours of Service:** NBGA supports the current U.S. Department of Transportation 100-mile agricultural hours of service exemption.

9. **Ag Exemption:** NBGA supports the 150-mile ag exemption from U.S. Department of Transportation regulations whether intrastate or interstate travel.

ENERGY

1. **Renewable Energy:** NBGA supports the concept of the “25 by ‘25” vision that has the goal of U.S. agriculture providing a minimum of 25% of the energy consumed in the United States by year 2025.

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

1. **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):**
 - a. NBGA supports the CRP; however, future enrollments should be limited to environmentally sensitive land only.
 - b. NBGA supports maintaining penalties for early contract withdrawal.
 - c. NBGA supports clear, uniform CRP rules that re-establish base on expiring CRP contracts.
2. **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):**
 - a. NBGA supports the CSP as a consistent, equitable and fully funded stand alone program.
 - b. NBGA supports transferring CSP program administration from NRCS to FSA.
 - c. NBGA supports CSP be aligned with FSA entity rules.
3. **Conservation Compliance:** NBGA supports basing the determination of whether a producer has achieved "substantial reduction in soil erosion" on the basis of his/her overall progress since the initial implementation of his/her plan.
4. **Bureau of Reclamation Irrigation Project:** NBGA urges Congress to work closely with the Administration to resolve conflicts between the conservation of endangered species and western U.S. water needs and thereby ensure that the Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects are not disrupted and farmers are not denied their legal water rights.
5. **Pesticide Harmonization:**
 - a. NBGA supports Administration and Congressional efforts to accelerate registration harmonization between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico for crop protection products used on barley, wheat, and canola.
 - b. NBGA supports a joint North American label.
6. **IR-4 Funding:** NBGA supports funding for the IR-4 program to assist in the registration of crop protection products for minor uses like barley.
7. **Endangered Species Act (ESA) reform:** NBGA supports legislation to preserve biodiversity by providing incentives and flexibility in recovering endangered species.
8. **Air Quality:**
 - a. NBGA opposes EPA's proposed rule to tighten ozone standards and to set new standards for coarse or fine particulate matter.
9. **Water Quality:**
 - a. NBGA opposes EPA mandated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).
 - b. NBGA supports continued technical assistance and incentive-based water quality programs at the local level.

10. **Wetlands:** NBGA urges the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Army Corps of Engineers to allow maximum flexibility in the use of mitigation to assist landowners in managing wetlands.
11. **Climate Change Legislation:** NBGA will support federal climate change legislation that results in a net economic benefit to US barley producers based on comprehensive, science-based analysis. NBGA does request that USDA conduct comprehensive, detailed scientific and economic analysis of that legislation or regulation prior to its implementation. NBGA opposes any implementation of greenhouse gas legislation or regulation until other major carbon emitting countries agree to similar regulations and costs.
12. **EPA Regulation:** NBGA supports an ag exemption from EPA regulation of greenhouse gases.

FARM LABOR

1. **Guest Worker Program:** NBGA supports a workable guest worker program that secures the borders of the United States and provides a legal, affordable, and stable workforce for agriculture.