

Agriculture Legislative Monitor

Congressman Jim Nussle

Manchester, Iowa

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Jim Nussle's Agenda for Iowa...

*Protect our
Nation with
Homeland Security*

*Strengthen the
Family Farm*

*Fair Taxation &
Responsible Budgets*

*Long-term
Energy Strategies*

*Retirement Security
for All Iowans*

*Strengthen Medicare
& Ensure Health
Care Access*

*Student-centered
Education with
Local Control*

*Keep Promises
Made to Our
Nation's Veterans*

*Grow Our Economy
to Create Jobs*

Nussle Agenda to Strengthen the Family Farm

“ Strengthening the family farm is the most important economic strategy for the State of Iowa. Our strength has always come from our land and the productivity of our family farms. While our farmers are the best in the world at the work they do, their economic condition has been threatened over the past 20 years. The new Farm Bill must be implemented to meet the changing needs of farmers so they can compete in the global marketplace.”

Jim Nussle

Jim is working to achieve a positive legislative agenda for Iowa's farmers. Jim has worked on Iowa's agriculture priorities since coming to Congress and will continue to work on these priorities in the 108th Congress.

After countless meetings with Iowa farmers, as well as through letters, e-mails and phone calls from farmers, he has created the following goals.

Strengthen the Family Farm Goals:

1. Implement and Strengthen the 2002 Farm Bill
2. Ban Packer Ownership of Livestock
3. Establish Responsible Conservation and Environmental Protection
4. Budget for Agriculture Emergencies
5. Encourage New People to Enter Agriculture
6. Improve Tax Fairness for Farmers
7. Reduce Government Pressure on Input Costs
8. Top to Bottom Review of USDA
9. Review and Oversight of Agribusiness Mega-Mergers
10. Provide Incentives for Alternative Uses of Iowa's Crops
11. Create New Markets Around the Globe for Iowa's Products

In order to achieve the goals to help strengthen the family farm, Jim has sponsored and co-sponsored many pieces of legislation, and as the House Budget Committee Chairman, he has written many farming items into his budget. You will find a listing of these items on the following pages.

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Nussle's Agriculture Agenda Legislation:**FY 2004 Agriculture Appropriations (H.R. 2673)**

- Provides \$16.9 billion in discretionary funding for the USDA; \$63 billion mandatory spending under the farm bill.
- Provides \$988 million for the Farm Service Agency (FSA); provides \$1.15 billion for the Agricultural Research Service.
- Provides \$853 million for conservation programs, an increase of \$149 million over FY2003.
- ***Rep. Nussle authored a letter in support of funding for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). The bill includes \$41 million for CSP.***
- ***Approved by Congress on January 22, 2004. Signed into law by the President on January 23, 2004.***

The 2002 Farm Bill**Farm Security & Rural Investment Act of 2002**

- As chairman of the House Budget committee, Rep. Nussle set aside \$73.5 billion for the implementation of an updated farm program that gives farmers the predictability they need, as opposed to *ad hoc* disaster assistance.
- Retains fixed-decoupled payments, as well as the marketing loan program.
- Increases funding for soil and water conservation by 80 percent to encourage participation.
- Maintains planting and marketing flexibility.
- Reauthorizes and updates conservation, trade, research, and rural development programs.
- Increases funding for research and development of renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel.
- Adds a new counter-cyclical program intended to help farmers deal with unfavorable market conditions and poor weather.
- ***The Farm Security & Rural Investment Act of 2002 was approved by Congress on May 8, 2002. Signed into law by the President on May 13, 2002.***

Fair Trade and Competition for Iowa Farmers**Packer Ownership Ban (H.R. 719)**

- Bans packer ownership of livestock for more than 7 days prior to slaughter.
- Provides competitive safeguards for small livestock producers.
- ***Co-sponsored by Rep. Nussle. Pending in the House Committee on Agriculture.***

Trade Act of 2002

- Facilitates international trade by allowing the President to make agreements that can be approved by Congress without amendment.
- ***Approved by the Congress on August 1, 2002. Signed into law by the President on August 6, 2002.***

Research and Incentives for Adding Value to the Land**Highway Reauthorization Tax Act (H.R. 3971)**

- Simplifies and extends ethanol tax incentive through 2010 and properly credits highway trust fund with ethanol tax receipts.
- *Approved by the House Committee on Ways and Means on March 18, 2004. Approved by the house of Representatives on April 1, 2004.*

Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU H.R. 3550)

- Provides significant funding to upgrade and expand U.S. highways, state and county roadways.
- *Approved by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on March 18, 2004. Expected to be approved by the House of Representatives on April 1, 2004.*

Energy Independence Act (H.R. 4652)

- Creates a Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) to **increase the demand for ethanol and biodiesel by 5 billion gallons by 2015, simplifies and extends ethanol tax incentive, and creates a tax incentive for biodiesel.**
- Immediately bans the use of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE).
- Requires Federal agency fleet vehicles to use ethanol and biodiesel whenever feasible.
- Permanently extends and expands tax credits for electricity derived from wind, biomass and manure.
- Tax credit for small ethanol producers, energy efficient appliances, and for construction of new energy efficient homes/energy efficiency improvements for existing homes.
- Repeals the excise tax on railroads and barges.
- Expands communities' bonding authority to finance facilities that produce alternative fuels.
- Permanently extend the \$2000 tax deduction for purchasing an alternative fuel vehicle.
- Provides incentives for developing tractor and construction equipment to meet higher clean air standards.
- *Introduced by Rep. Nussle.*

Energy Security Act (H.R. 6)

- Bolsters our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil.
- Encourages domestic energy production.
- Extends and expands the tax incentives for electricity derived from wind and biomass.
- Repeals the excise tax on diesel fuel for barges and railroads.
- Provides tax incentives for energy efficient homes.
- Sets a Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) to increase the demand for renewable fuels.
- *Final Conference Report approved by the House on November 18, 2003. Awaiting consideration in the Senate.*

Renewable Fuels and Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Act (H.R. 3119)

- Simplifies and extends ethanol tax incentive.
- Creates tax incentive for biodiesel.
- *Co-sponsored by Rep. Nussle.*

Enhancing the Upper Mississippi Navigation (H.R. 4784)

- Improves and strengthens the navigation capacity on the upper Mississippi river and Illinois river system.
- Authorizes construction of navigation improvements at locks and dams along the Mississippi to improve river traffic and trade.
- *Co-sponsored by Rep. Nussle*

Water Resources Development Act (H.R. 2557)

- Authorizes and directs the nation's largest water resources program to carry out various studies, projects and programs relating to navigation, flood damage reduction, shoreline protection, dam safety, water supply, recreation and environmental restoration and protection.
- Directs the Army Corps of Engineers to complete its Navigation Study of the Upper Mississippi River Basin by July 2004 and to give priority consideration for flood mitigation projects in Dubuque and Scott counties.
- *Approved by the House on September 24, 2003. Action is pending in the Senate.*

Local Railroad Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 876)

- Provides tax incentives to provide for track maintenance and restoration for local short line railroads.
- *Co-sponsored by Rep. Nussle. Pending in the House Committee on Ways and Means.*