



Al Franken

U.S. Senator for Minnesota

Fighting for Farmers and Livestock Producers

Senator Franken knows that Minnesota is a farm state – one in five jobs is supported by agriculture – and he’s made it a top priority to visit farmers all over the state to hear what they need from the federal government. In Washington, he has worked hard to make sure that our agriculture policies give farmers, livestock producers, and rural businesses the tools they need to compete in the global marketplace.

Passing a New Farm Bill to Bring Stability to Minnesota’s Farmers

- Minnesota’s farmers need the stability of a long-term farm bill – including a safety net in the form of crop insurance subsidies – in order to plan for next year. Sen. Franken successfully fought for a number of key provisions that were included in the farm bill passed by the Senate. He has also pressed the Obama Administration and Senate leadership to make sure that a new Farm Bill is passed before the end of 2012.



- He wrote a provision to reauthorize and improve the **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**, which helps agriculture producers and businesses in rural areas cut energy bills and earn additional income by investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- Because the average age of Minnesota’s farmers is 55, Sen. Franken successfully fought for expanded funding for the **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program**, which helps new farmers and ranchers get their operations off the ground.
- In negotiations over the Senate’s Farm Bill, Sen. Franken **voted successfully to preserve the sugar program**, which supports thousands of Minnesota jobs by ensuring a stable market and price for American sugar producers.
- He also supported **conservation programs** to help farmers protect vulnerable areas of their farm land.



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Protecting Farmers from Excessive Government Regulation

- In early 2012, Sen. Franken **successfully pressed the U.S. Department of Labor** to shelve proposed rules that would have prevented children from performing a variety of tasks on Minnesota family farms.
- In 2011, Sen. Franken successfully persuaded the Environmental Protection Agency to **drop proposed dust regulations that would have hurt farm productivity.**

Ensuring a Fair Marketplace for Minnesota Products

- Sen. Franken **successfully pressed U.S. officials to do everything possible to reopen pork trade with China** following a worldwide outbreak of the H1N1 virus, ensuring a significantly larger market for Minnesota's pork producers.
- In 2011, Sen. Franken cosponsored the *Dairy COOL Act*, which would **protect Minnesota dairy products by requiring country of origin labeling**, which helps to set American products apart in a crowded marketplace.
- Sen. Franken supported a free trade agreement with South Korea, which **gave Minnesota's farmers and livestock producers expanded access to the state's sixth largest export market.**
- In December 2012, Sen. Franken supported legislation to **give Minnesota farmers and livestock producers improved access to Russian markets.**

Endorsements/Accolades

- Sen. Franken has been honored with the **National Farmers Union's Golden Triangle Award** – which recognizes leadership and support for pro-farm policies – every year since he was elected to the Senate.
- Sen. Franken has also been named a **Friend of Farm Bureau** – awarded by the American Farm Bureau for his work on behalf of farmers and ranchers in Minnesota and across the country.

