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NFU: Local Foods Bill Promotes Healthy, Vibrant Rural America

WASHINGTON (Nov. 1, 2011) – [National Farmers Union](#) (NFU) supports the Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act, introduced in both chambers of Congress today by Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, and Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio. The bill will address production, aggregation, processing, marketing and distribution needs for farmers and ranchers engaged in local and regional agriculture. It also provides consumers with access to healthy food in direct and retail markets.

“We have seen a rapid increase in the number of farmers markets in the last decade, and with good reason,” said NFU President Roger Johnson. “Farmers markets allow consumers to know where their food comes from and helps them make more health-conscious decisions about what they are eating. It also keeps more money within the community, benefiting farmers, consumers, and the whole community.”

The Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act takes steps to provide more consumers with access to foods at farmers markets.

“Encouraging farmers markets, community supported agriculture programs, and other direct outlets help provide more people with access to healthy, locally grown food,” said Johnson. “The bill also gives the U.S. Department of Agriculture the authority to utilize local and regional food in its nutrition program purchases, which maximizes the economic benefit of taxpayer funds in their local community. I encourage Congress to pass this bill as soon as possible to ensure that more people are able to have access to locally grown food supplies.”

National Farmers Union has been working since 1902 to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities through advocating grassroots-driven policy positions adopted by its membership.