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President-Elect
Barack Obama

Vice President-Elect
Joe Biden

TRANSITION DIRECTORY

GSA Transition Directory
The Transition Directory was developed to introduce



The Problem

Family farmers are being squeezed: Farm consolidation has made it harder for mid-size family farmers to get fair prices for their products and compete on the open market.

Rural communities are often left behind: Rural communities often struggle to attract capital because of lack of infrastructure and remote distances. There is less access to quality doctors, and schools have trouble recruiting teachers.

Barack Obama and Joe Biden's Plan

Ensure Economic Opportunity For Family Farmers

- **Strong Safety Net for Family Farmers:** Obama and Biden will fight for farm programs that provide family farmers with stability and predictability. They will implement a \$250,000 payment limitation so that we help family farmers — not large corporate agribusiness. They will close the loopholes that allow mega farms to get around the limits by subdividing their operations into multiple paper corporations.
- **Prevent Anticompetitive Behavior Against Family Farms:** Obama is a strong supporter of a packer ban. When meatpackers own livestock they can manipulate prices and discriminate against independent farmers. Obama and Biden will strengthen anti-monopoly laws and strengthen producer protections to ensure independent farmers have fair access to markets, control over their production decisions, and transparency in prices.
- **Regulate CAFOs:** Obama's Environmental Protection Agency will strictly regulate pollution from large CAFOs, with fines for those that violate tough standards. Obama also supports meaningful local control.
- **Establish Country of Origin Labeling:** Obama supports immediate implementation of the Country of Origin Labeling law so that American producers can distinguish their products from imported ones.
- **Encourage Organic and Local Agriculture:** Obama and Biden will help organic farmers afford to certify their crops and reform crop insurance to not penalize organic farmers. They also will promote regional food systems.
- **Encourage Young People to Become Farmers:** Obama and Biden will establish a new program to identify and train the next generation of farmers. They will also provide tax incentives to make it easier for new farmers to afford their first farm.
- **Partner with Landowners to Conserve Private Lands:** Obama and Biden will increase incentives for farmers and private landowners to conduct sustainable agriculture and protect wetlands, grasslands, and forests.

Support Rural Economic Development

- **Support Small Business Development:** Obama and Biden will provide capital for farmers to create value-added enterprises, like cooperative marketing initiatives and farmer-owned processing plants. They also will establish a small business and micro-enterprise initiative for rural America.
- **Connect Rural America:** Barack Obama and Joe Biden will ensure that rural Americans have access to a modern communications infrastructure. They will modernize an FCC program that supports rural phone service so that it promotes affordable broadband coverage across rural America as well.
- **Promote Leadership in Renewable Energy:** Obama and Biden will ensure that our rural areas continue their leadership in the renewable fuels movement. This will transform the economy, especially in rural America, which is poised to produce and refine more American biofuels and provide more wind power than ever before, and create millions of new jobs across the country.

Improve Rural Quality Of Life

Of the People, By the People

There is no more important resource for changing the direction of this country and defining the ideas that will transform America than the American people.

Tell us your ideas and be part of the change you're looking for.

SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS

Presidential nominees, appointees, and members of the President-elect's Transition Team to the operation of the Federal government and to the resources available to help them begin their service in the new Administration.

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