Young farmers and ranchers need to be heard.

At the National Young Farmers’ Coalition, we give them a megaphone, and with that, a platform to overcome any obstacles that get in the way of their success.

The trials of early farming should not be about the political climate, but the weather outside. That’s why NYFC is an aggressive advocate in the U.S. House and Senate, protecting young farmers’ interests in the Farm Bill and throughout the year. Through NYFC’s State Coalitions and our inventive Farm Hack programming, young farmers find the solidarity, community and on-the-ground solutions necessary to sustain the trials of learning to farm.

Together, with a growing membership of young farmers, ranchers and conscious consumers from across the U.S., NYFC is fighting for the future of independent and sustainable American farms by supporting the next generation of farm entrepreneurs. Join us today! 

WWW.YOUNGFARMERS.ORG/GIVE
NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS COALITION
PO BOX 292. TIVOLI, NEW YORK 12583
**POLICY CHANGE**

For the past 50 years, corporate interests and agri-business lobbyists dominated the conversation about the future of American farming. Representation by NYFC means young farmers and ranchers have a voice in the din. NYFC stands up for beginning and small farms, from the offices of state elected officials to the federal legislature.

Without critical changes to current policy and major amendments to the Farm Bill, the potential of beginning farmers and ranchers is in serious jeopardy. NYFC’s policy initiatives defend beginning farmer training, seek to improve access to start-up capital and create pathways to affordable land access.

In 2012, NYFC secured federal funding for beginning farmers and ranchers by convincing officials in the U.S. Department of Agriculture that this start-up capital is critical to success. Now, USDA Micro-Loans will be available to all beginning farmers and ranchers, in perpetuity. By representing young farmers and ranchers in the halls of power, the National Young Farmers’ Coalition protects young farmers today, and is plowing a path to success for the next generation.

**INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS**

Young farmers face a flurry of unknowns. From greenhouse functionality to sustainable irrigation choices, Farm Hack is NYFC’s new-tech, crowd-sourced solution. Online and in person, Farm Hack is a breeding ground for innovative problem solving that fits the scale and ethic of small farms. It’s where pioneering technologies, built to answer the needs of young farmers, are tested, perfected and shared for farmers to use worldwide. Thanks to NYFC’s growing network, these open-source solutions are improving competitiveness and production for the young farmers and ranchers who need them most.

In 2012, Farm Hack delivered problem-solving innovation to more than 500 farmers and ranchers in six states. Online, tens of thousand more participated in a growing online community to create tools and fixes scaled to new farms and small ranches. Now prototyping its first ever crowd-sourced invention, the FIDO Robot is an electronic monitor that tracks greenhouse temperature, records data and alerts the farmer to problems by cell phone text message. With open-source guides to inventions for farmers that can be built by farmers, community-driven Farm Hack innovations will be a growing source of solutions for independent farms and ranches nationwide.

**POWERFUL ALLIANCES**

A meeting of the Washington State Young Farmers Coalition, NYFC’s first affiliate group.

Alone, a farmer or rancher is only as strong as their horsepower. Together, those farmers and ranchers are an unbreakable community. Behind that knowledge – that a farmer can’t raise a barn alone – the National Young Farmers’ Coalition is building a visionary solution: In every state, a powerful coalition of young farmers and ranchers, who together can win local change.

Modeled after NYFC’s national standard, State Coalitions are the local call to action that has put state elected officials on their toes. In 2012, NYFC State Coalitions launched in 8 states, and already, these powerful collectives are succeeding in changing state policy and local laws.

The communal intent behind NYFC’s State Coalitions is even more powerful than policy change. Where solo operators are joined into likeminded communities, the strength of numbers pays dividends for young farmers. In farming counties across America, this local cooperation is solving local problems, by harnessing group purchasing power and building a collective business network to grow on together. Young farmers and ranchers are helping one another, with State Coalitions as their meeting ground, to become an efficient, productive force.