

## Sample Floor Speeches: AFBF Centennial

### SPEECH 1

I rise today to congratulate the American Farm Bureau Federation on 100 years of acting as the unified national Voice of Agriculture. The Farm Bureau began in Chicago, Illinois on November 12, 1919 when leaders from 34 states came together to give farmers and ranchers a voice and a seat at the table.

Throughout the past one hundred years, the Farm Bureau has had an historic place in enacting legislation to preserve and protect the way of life its members choose to live. From encouraging a bipartisan group of senators and congressmen known as the Farm Bloc to pass the Packers and Stockyards Act in 1921 to leaning on President Ronald Reagan in 1981 to end the grain embargo imposed on the Soviet Union, the American Farm Bureau Federation takes pride in working through its grassroots organizations to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities.

Today, the Farm Bureau has membership in all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico. There are nearly 6 million member families across over 2,800 counties, and this is where Farm Bureau draws its strength. Since its inception in 1919, AFBF has been defined by a true grassroots policy development process. Every January, farmer and rancher delegates set AFBF's formal policy agenda after deliberation on and anticipation of the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture.

I stand in support of and in friendship with the American Farm Bureau Federation and look forward to the next 100 years of leadership, vision, and advocacy for America's farmers and ranchers.

## SPEECH 2

I rise today to recognize the contributions to American agriculture made by the American Farm Bureau Federation throughout the last 100 years. On November 12, 1919 leaders from 34 states met in Chicago, Illinois to organize and give farmers and ranchers a seat at the table. Today, Farm Bureau is recognized as the national Voice of Agriculture.

Throughout the Farm Bureau's history, advocacy has been at the heart of everything the organization does. As early as 1921, the Farm Bureau began advocating for the rights of its farmer members, working on such legislation as the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Futures Trading Act, and the Capper-Volstead Act. These pieces of legislation ensured that farmers and ranchers across the country had access to a level playing field and a growing global market.

Today, the Farm Bureau remains a strong and trusted voice in Congress, campaigning on issues such as common-sense regulatory reform, fair and free trade across the globe, and a greater investment in rural America's infrastructure. Though the way farmers and ranchers conduct their business has changed dramatically in the last 100 years, Farm Bureau's commitment to its members has not changed. Nearly 6 million voices constitute the organization's membership, yet Farm Bureau remains unified.

I offer my sincere congratulations to the American Farm Bureau Federation on 100 years of success and thank the organization for its continued work to advance rural America.

### SPEECH 3

I rise today to congratulate the American Farm Bureau Federation on 100 years of acting as the unified national Voice of Agriculture. The Farm Bureau began in Chicago, Illinois on November 12, 1919 when leaders from 34 states came together to give farmers and ranchers a voice and a seat at the table.

While Farm Bureau remains committed to advocacy in the legislative arena, the organization's scope and reach has evolved throughout the last 100 years. Today, the organization maintains a strong grassroots advocacy program, while also focusing on such areas as education and empowerment. The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture works to build awareness, understanding and a positive perception of agriculture through education, while programs such as the Young Farmers and Ranchers Program and the Women's Leadership Program ensure Farm Bureau members have the tools they need to succeed.

As an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families, the Farm Bureau strives to promote the national well-being by achieving educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement for rural America. Farm Bureau believes that when rural America thrives, the rest of the country will flourish.

Farm Bureau's impact on legislation cannot be denied, with such contributions to national policy as work on the 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act to influencing the 2018 farm bill. However, the organization's work to enhance the lives of farm and ranch families is just as vital.

I commend and congratulate the American Farm Bureau Federation on 100 years of impact from the halls of Congress to the fields and farms across America.

#### SPEECH 4 (similar to SPEECH 1)

I rise today to congratulate the American Farm Bureau Federation on 100 years of acting as the unified national Voice of Agriculture. The Farm Bureau began in the Red Room of the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, Illinois on November 12, 1919 when leaders from 34 states came together to give farmers and ranchers a voice and a seat at the table.

Throughout the past 100 years, the Farm Bureau has had an historic place in enacting legislation to enhance the lives of rural Americans, and therefore enhance the lives of Americans everywhere. From encouraging a bipartisan group of senators and congressmen known as the Farm Bloc to pass the 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act to influencing the contents of the 2018 farm bill, the American Farm Bureau Federation takes pride in working through its grassroots advocacy structure to strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities.

Today, the Farm Bureau has membership in all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico. Membership includes nearly 6 million families across over 2,800 counties, and this is where Farm Bureau draws its strength. Since its inception in 1919, AFBF has been defined by a true grassroots policy development process. Every January, farmer and rancher delegates set AFBF's formal policy agenda after deliberation on and anticipation of the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture.

I stand in support of and in friendship with the American Farm Bureau Federation and look forward to the next 100 years of leadership, vision, and advocacy for America's farmers and ranchers.

## SPEECH 5

Throughout the last 100 years in America, the way farmers and ranchers raise food, fuel, and fiber has changed drastically. The amount of labor required to produce 100 bushels of corn has been reduced from about 35-40 hours to less than three hours, and corn yields have more than doubled, rising from about 50 bushels per acre to more than 100 bushels per acre, in a good year. Yet, one thing has remained the same: The American Farm Bureau Federation has been steadfast in acting as the unified national Voice of Agriculture, since 1919.

Today I congratulate Farm Bureau on 100 years of leadership, vision and advocacy on behalf of America's farmers and ranchers. What started as a group of leaders from 34 states in the Red Room of the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, has become the largest general farm organization in the United States, working to advance rural America from coast to coast.

While the last 100 years have seen such advancements as the invention of the bread-slicing machine in 1928, the rise of satellite technology to track and plan farming practices in 1994, and the approval of genetically modified apples in 2015, the Farm Bureau has been advancing as well.

From forming the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture in 1967 to help create agriculturally literate citizens, to creating the Promotion and Education Committee in 2015 to bridge the gap between farmers and consumers through tools and resources, the Farm Bureau has evolved to better suit the needs of its members. In an ever-evolving world, the Federation remains committed to improving the lives of rural Americans and I commend them on the work they have done and the work they continue to do.

## Miscellaneous ideas

Though there are fewer farms and ranches today than ever before, the Farm Bureau remains strong. With membership totaling nearly 6 million, the reach of the organization stretches across all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico.