



Proposed Rule: Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS)

TALKING POINTS

Key Messages

- Farmers want clean water and clear rules. They need a new common-sense water rule that protects water quality and gives them clear rules they can follow.
- Farmers care about clean water. They want to preserve their land to pass it down to future generations.
- Farmers should be able to look at their land and know what is and is not a “water of the U.S.” under the Clean Water Act.
- Farm Bureau supports common-sense regulations that protect and improve water quality on our nation’s farms and ranches.

General Points

- Farmers have every incentive to leave their land and natural resources in better shape for the next generation. Many farms have been in the family for several generations, and most states have programs to recognize farms that have been owned by the same family for more than 100 years.
- Land is almost always farmers’ largest asset and primary source of income. Farm Bureau supports landowners’ right to use their land responsibly while protecting and enhancing water resources.
- Farmers understand the things they do to enhance the environment often improve their bottom line. They continually search for ways to do both.

Need for a New Rule

- Farm Bureau supports clean water and clear rules. Farmers need a new water rule that protects water quality and provides clear rules that they can follow.
- A new water rule must be clear and specific. Farmers should not have to hire teams of consultants and lawyers just to know if they can farm their own land.
- The 2015 WOTUS rule was blocked by the courts within days of its effective date based on its legal flaws and was never implemented nationwide.