

National Farmers Union

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For Immediate Release: October 14, 2010

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WASHINGTON (Oct. 14, 2010) – [National Farmers Union](#) (NFU) President Roger Johnson moderated a panel today at the Biogas USA event in San Francisco, Calif. The panel was focused on agricultural biogas production.

“NFU has long-supported sustainable agriculture practices like utilizing biogas,” said Johnson. “The speakers on this panel, and throughout the course of the conference, illustrated the latest developments and opportunities for U.S. farmers and ranchers.”

Conference participants heard from industry leaders from around the world. It became evident that the U.S. is far behind European countries, especially Germany, in the development of this important industry. German policies are much clearer and result in a much faster-growing industry.

“Under Germany’s Feed in Tariffs, renewable energy projects have the ability to project a longer term, profitable price for their gas and electricity off-takes than is the case in the U.S. Projects also have guaranteed access to the grid under German law,” said Johnson. “As a result, project developers who are often farmers, find it much easier to get commercial financing since they have a profitable price and a dependable market. Such policies are resulting in a widely-dispersed system of power generation and substantial local economic development, as compared to the more uncertain and concentrated renewable energy market that is also more slow to develop in the U.S.”

The panel was comprised of Allen Dusault, program director for sustainable agriculture at Sustainable Conservation, Kevin Maas, founder of Farm Power Northwest, Nettie R. Drake project manager at Fiscalini Farms, Daniel Mann, chief business development officer at MT-Energie, and John W. Logan, owner of Brinson Farms.

“A tremendous economic opportunity exists for rural America,” said Johnson. “U.S. farmers and ranchers are willing and able to be a part of an initiative that increases our national security and energy independence. Therefore, it is vital that the U.S. Congress establish a Renewable Energy Standard to build a strong clean energy industry that keeps America competitive; revives American manufacturing; maintains and creates jobs; and puts money in the pockets of rural landowners.”

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.

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This entry was posted on Thursday, October 14th, 2010 at 1:06 pm and is filed under [Energy](#), [Environment](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed.

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