



THE 2023 FARM BILL

A Policymaker Summary of Action Items for U.S. Agriculture and Food Policy

The 2023 Farm Bill comes at a time when farmers are facing inflated input costs, supply bottlenecks and shortages, and an increasing number of severe weather events. The historic trend of zero-base budgeting in past Farm Bills suggests that the allocation of funds will be no small task. As lawmakers sift through competing priorities, here is a brief summary of policy considerations to ensure American farmers and ranchers have the support they need to keep our domestic food system secure.



Commodities

Programs like the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) provide crucial protection against low commodity prices. While prices are strong, input costs have skyrocketed. Some suggest reference prices should be based on a margin basis rather than gross revenue. It's also important to keep in mind that high commodity prices will likely drop before input costs when allocating budget.

ACTION ITEMS

- Adjust reference prices
- Improve process delays
- Review payment options



Conservation

As climate change becomes an increasingly harsh reality many farmers are facing, voluntary and incentive-based programs are most favored by the ag community to allow room for innovation without excessive regulatory burden. No one cares more about protecting land and its natural resources than the farmer who relies on it. Financial and boots-on-the-ground technical support can help them do it.

ACTION ITEMS

- Focus on restoration over retirement
- Avoid lowering funding
- Increase technical assistance
- Seek farmer insight
- Expand cost-sharing programs



Nutrition

Inflation is top of mind for many Americans right now, making the Nutrition title a potentially contentious issue. The affordability and resilience of our domestic food system has been called into question, leading to requests for a more fragmented, localized framework. Balancing budget allocation for this hot button issue with competing priorities will prove to be a challenge.

ACTION ITEMS

- Assess need for pandemic response assistance
- Address supply chain bottlenecks
- Improve affordable food distribution programs



Crop Insurance

Increasing climate volatility makes the actuarial soundness of current federal crop insurance programs difficult. As of now, 94 percent of crop insurance coverage is associated with six major ag commodities, not leaving much funding for more diversified operations. There are incentive opportunities for preventative planting coverage and other soil health practices through federal crop insurance policies.

ACTION ITEMS

- Avoid higher premiums
- Make policies crop-rotation friendly
- Incentivize conservation practices
- Simplify Whole Farm Revenue Protection application process
- Widen preventative planting coverage
- Diversify benefits and research

Remaining One Percent

Outside of the four major titles that account for 99 percent of total Farm Bill funding, a range of crucial programs and initiatives fall under the remaining one percent. From rural infrastructure development to beginning farmer initiatives, the 2023 Farm Bill will require innovation, compromise, and a willingness to seek and apply firsthand farmer insight.

THE 2023 FARM BILL: FULL REPORT

Download AgAmerica's full report on the 12 titles in the 2023 Farm Bill and learn more about how each one plays an important role in protecting the food security of our great nation.

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