

April 2022



# A FARM & FOOD STAKEHOLDER'S GUIDE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



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# FARM BILL 101

## What is the farm bill?

- The farm bill is an omnibus, multi-year law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs.

## How often is it reauthorized?

- The farm bill is typically renewed about every five years. Since the 1930s, 18 farm bills have been enacted. The most recent farm bill was signed into law in December 2018.

## When does the current farm bill expire?

- The 2018 Farm Bill expires in 2023.

## What happens if that deadline is missed?

- Some key commodity support programs would revert to permanently authorized legislation from the 1930s and 1940s. Many discretionary programs would not have statutory authority to receive appropriations. Other programs are permanently authorized and would not be impacted.

## Who writes the bill?

- Members of the House Agriculture Committee and Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## What programs are included in the farm bill?

- While farm bills were traditionally focused on farm program support for staple commodities, they have become increasingly expansive since 1973, when a nutrition title was included. Other additions include conservation, horticulture, and bioenergy programs.

## What isn't in the farm bill?

- While farm bills are broad, some ag policy topics are not addressed, including child nutrition programs, the renewable fuels standard, food safety, and tax issues, for example.

## How much does the farm bill cost?

- At enactment in December 2018, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the total cost of mandatory programs would be \$428 billion over five years. Nutrition, crop insurance, commodity programs, and conservation account for most of this spending.

## What happens after the bill is signed into law?

- While some farm bill programs are guaranteed with mandatory spending, others are authorized but funded through discretionary spending. Appropriators on Capitol Hill must decide each year how much funding to allocate for these programs.

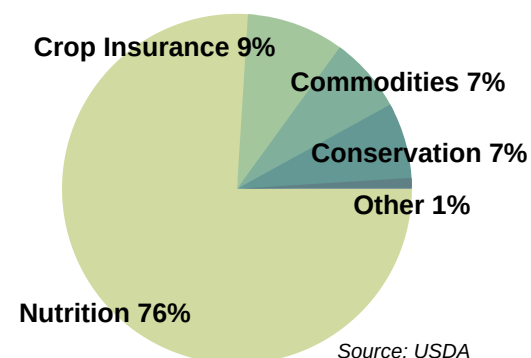
## What is USDA's role?

- After the farm bill becomes law, the U.S. Department of Agriculture must write the rules to govern its implementation. The rule making process can be lengthy and provides opportunity for public input. Congress is also involved in overseeing farm bill implementation.

## Titles of the 2018 Farm Bill

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Title 1</b>  | Commodity Programs |
| <b>Title 2</b>  | Conservation       |
| <b>Title 3</b>  | Trade              |
| <b>Title 4</b>  | Nutrition          |
| <b>Title 5</b>  | Credit             |
| <b>Title 6</b>  | Rural Development  |
| <b>Title 7</b>  | Research           |
| <b>Title 8</b>  | Forestry           |
| <b>Title 9</b>  | Energy             |
| <b>Title 10</b> | Horticulture       |
| <b>Title 11</b> | Crop Insurance     |
| <b>Title 12</b> | Miscellaneous      |

## 2018 Farm Bill Projected Outlays



Source: USDA

# THE LONG ROAD TO A NEW FARM BILL

While the 2018 Farm Bill doesn't expire until 2023, the process of crafting the next farm bill has already started. Here's what to expect.

Ag Committees host hearings - both "in the field" and D.C. - to collect input.

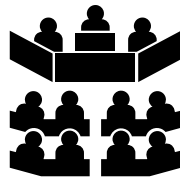
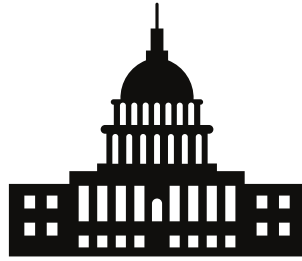
Marker bills introduced by legislators to identify priorities.

## House Ag Committee

- 1) Draft Farm Bill Text
- 2) Markup Bill in Committee
- 3) Committee Votes on Bill
- 4) House Floor Votes on Bill

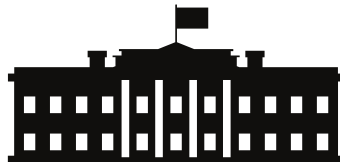
## Senate Ag Committee

- 1) Draft Farm Bill Text
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## Conference Committee Reconciles Differences Between Bills

House and Senate Vote on Final Bill



President Signs Bill Into Law

## Appropriations

House and Senate Appropriations Committees pass annual spending bills.



## Rulemaking

USDA writes the regulations to implement the farm bill, with a public comment period.



# KEY COMMITTEES

LISTED BY SENIORITY



## SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

### MAJORITY

Chair: Debbie Stabenow (MI)  
Patrick Leahy (VT)  
Sherrod Brown (OH)  
Amy Klobuchar (MN)  
Michael Bennet (CO)  
Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)  
Tina Smith (MN)  
Dick Durbin (IL)  
Cory Booker (NJ)  
Ben Ray Luján (NM)  
Raphael Warnock (GA)

### MINORITY

Ranking: John Boozman (AR)  
Mitch McConnell (KY)  
John Hoeven (ND)  
Joni Ernst (IA)  
Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS)  
Roger Marshall (KS)  
Tommy Tuberville (AL)  
Chuck Grassley (IA)  
John Thune (SD)  
Deb Fischer (NE)  
Mike Braun (IN)

## STAFF

\* as of 3/16/22

### MAJORITY

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**Deputy Staff Director,**  
**Policy Director:** Jacquelyn Schneider  
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**Professional Staff:** Kyle Varner  
**Professional Staff:** Mikayla Bodey  
**Professional Staff:** Adam Schiff  
**Policy Analyst:** Alex Noffsinger  
**Legislative Aide:** Katie Sololon  
**Director, External Affairs:** Patrick Delaney  
**Press Secretary:** Lillie Zeng

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**Chief Economist:** John Newton  
**General Counsel:** Andrew Rezendes  
**Professional Staff/Counsel:** Dudley Hoskins  
**Policy Director:** Chelsie Keys  
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**Professional Staff:** Jeremy Witte  
**Legislative Assistant:** Macie Kelly  
**Legislative Assistant:** Taylor Wiseman  
**Legislative Aide:** Brooke Taylor  
**Communications**  
**Director:** Patrick Creamer

# HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

## MAJORITY

Chair: David Scott (GA-13)  
Jim Costa (CA-16)  
Jim McGovern (MA-02)  
Filemon Vela (TX-34)  
Alma Adams (NC-12), Vice-Chair  
Abigail Spanberger (VA-07)  
Jahana Hayes (CT-05)  
Antonio Delgado (NY-19)  
Bobby Rush (IL-01)  
Chellie Pingree (ME-01)  
Gregorio Sablan (MP-AL)  
Ann Kuster (NH-02)  
Cheri Bustos (IL-17)  
Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18)  
Stacey Plaskett (VI-AL)  
Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01)  
Salud Carbajal (CA-24)  
Ro Khanna (CA-17)  
Al Lawson (FL-05)  
Luis J. Correa (CA-46)  
Angie Craig (MN-02)  
Josh Harder (CA-10)  
Cindy Axne (IA-03)  
Kim Schrier (WA-08)  
Jimmy Panetta (CA-20)  
Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-02)  
Sanford Bishop (GA-02)  
Shontel Brown (OH-11)

## MINORITY

Ranking: G.T. Thompson (PA-15)  
Austin Scott (GA-08)  
Rick Crawford (AR-01)  
Scott DesJarlais (TN-04)  
Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)  
Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)  
Rodney Davis (IL-13)  
Rick Allen (GA-12)  
David Rouzer (NC-07)  
Trent Kelly (MS-01)  
Don Bacon (NE-02)  
Dusty Johnson (SD-AL)  
Jim Baird (IN-04)  
Chris Jacobs (NY-27)  
Troy Balderson (OH-12)  
Michael Cloud (TX-27)  
Tracey Mann (KS-01)  
Randy Feenstra (IA-04)  
Mary Miller (IL-15)  
Barry Moore (AL-02)  
Kat Cammack (FL-03)  
Michelle Fischbach (MN-07)  
Julia Letlow (LA-05)

## STAFF

\* as of 3/16/22

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**Digital Director:** Carlton Norwood  
**Director of Member Services & Coalitions:** Erin Wilson  
**Scheduling Director:** Lindsay Reusser

# WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

## "What Should I Be Doing to Prepare for the Farm Bill?"

Here are some actions that your organization can take now:

- Review the 2018 Farm Bill's programs + process.
- Collect feedback from your organization's membership.
- Consider if you need to play offense or defense.
- Identify potential allies for your policy priorities.
- Create a system for tracking farm bill developments.
- Partner with MTA's trusted team with farm bill expertise.

## Agriculture Committee Dynamics:

- **NEW AG COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**
  - House Ag Chair Scott
  - House Ag Ranking Member Thompson
  - Senate Ag Ranking Member Boozman
- **RETURNING AG COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**
  - Senate Ag Chair Stabenow
- **NEW**
  - 150+ new House members since 2018 Farm Bill, 27 new members on House Ag.
  - 15+ new Senate members since 2018 Farm Bill, 7 new members on Senate Ag.

## Actions So Far:

- **FARM BILL HEARINGS BEGIN**
  - The House Ag Committee launched a series of farm bill-focused hearings:
    - January 20: "To Review the State of the Rural Economy."
    - February 2: "A 2022 Review of Farm Bill Conservation Programs."
    - March 1: "Commodity Group Perspectives on Title 1."
    - March 8: "Rural Development."
    - March 16: "The Role of USDA Programs in Addressing Climate Change."
    - March 29: "Horticulture and Urban Agriculture"
    - March 30: "Stakeholder Perspectives on SNAP"
  - The Senate Ag Committee is expected to host field hearings in Michigan and Arkansas in the next few months and then begin title-by-title hearings on the bill.
- **USDA**
  - Climate-smart agriculture, equity, strengthening the supply chain, and supporting competition are priorities of the Biden administration.
  - Still awaiting some nominations to be confirmed or appointed.
- **STAKEHOLDERS**
  - Agriculture organizations are collecting input from their membership to develop their farm bill asks.

## What Happens Next?

- **MARKUPS**
  - With the potential for gavel-changing elections, markups aren't expected to begin until 2023.
- **MARKER BILLS**
  - Members will introduce legislation to highlight their farm bill priorities.
- **2022 ELECTION**
  - Three House Ag Democrats (Reps. Vela, Rush, Bustos) and one Senate Ag Democrat (Sen. Leahy) have already announced they are retiring this year.

# MEET THE TEAM



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**About MTA:** Food and agricultural organizations that need the right results in Washington, D.C. can trust Michael Torrey Associates to put its relationships, reputation and expertise to work on your issue. Since 2005, the firm has successfully provided legislative and regulatory guidance, issues management and association management services.

Today, the MTA team works on a wide range of policy issues in the agriculture, food, timber and financial services industries. The firm's expertise includes government relations, strategic communications, coalition development and association management.