

MAY 2023



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

## INSIDE

Research & the Farm Bill  
Committee Overview  
Subcommittees & Marker Bills  
Meet the TAG Team



# RESEARCH AND THE FARM BILL

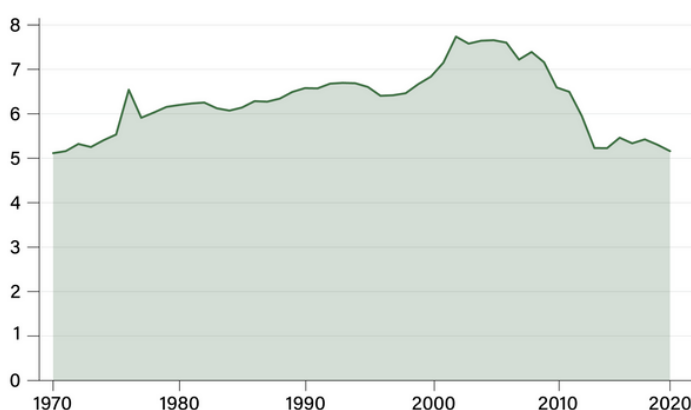
The current farm bill was signed into law on December 20, 2018 and remains in force through 2023. It includes 12 titles, including Title VII, which focuses on research programs.

## TITLE VII BACKGROUND:

- Since 1977, the farm bill has included a title focused on agricultural research, extension, and education (REE). The research title is often a source of bipartisan collaboration within the farm bill.
- Four agencies carry out USDA's REE mission area: the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (extramural programs), Agricultural Research Service (intramural scientific research), Economic Research Service (economic and social science research), and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (Census of Agriculture and farm sector statistics).
- USDA distributes capacity grants among eligible institutions based on formulas in statute and competitive grants directly to individual projects selected through a peer-review process.
- Established in the 2014 Farm Bill, the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) is a nonprofit research corporation designed to leverage private funding with federal dollars to support innovative public agricultural research.
- Most research title programs require annual discretionary appropriations. Upon enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill, projected mandatory spending for the research title totaled \$694 million for FY2019-FY2023, accounting for less than 0.2% of total projected farm bill mandatory spending.

## ISSUES TO WATCH:

- U.S. public funding for agricultural research has declined by a third over the past twenty years, peaking in 2002 and declining to hit the lowest levels since 1970.
- This has happened during the same time that other nations – like China, Brazil, and India – have committed significant investments to public agricultural research.
- The research community is seeking a significant investment of mandatory funding in the next farm bill's research title. However, achieving additional mandatory funding will be a significant challenge, especially with the debt ceiling debate looming.
- Three “orphan” programs do not have a budget baseline for funding beyond FY2023 and therefore wouldn't receive any funding under a farm bill extension. The largest of these is FFAR, which currently has more than 300 private sector partners. Stakeholders are interested in making FFAR a permanent, baseline program.
- Stakeholders have also raised concerns about needing increased investment to address aging agricultural research infrastructure at the nation's land-grant universities.
- Addressing climate change is a major priority for the Biden administration and Democrats on Capitol Hill. The next farm bill could be a way for Congress to consider whether existing authorities, programs, and funding levels for climate change research and extension adequately address the needs of farmers and ranchers, but questions remain.



### U.S. FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PEAKED IN 2002

Source: USDA ERS, inflation-adjusted 2019 dollars, billions

# KEY COMMITTEES



## SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

### MAJORITY

Chair: Debbie Stabenow (MI)  
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)  
Peter Welch (VT)  
John Fetterman (PA)

### MINORITY

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

## STAFF

*\* as of 5/17/23*

### MAJORITY

Staff Director:	Erica Chabot
Deputy Staff Director:	Eyang Garrison
Chief Counsel:	Chu-Yuan Hwang
Special Counsel:	Susan Keith
Senior Counsel:	Lucy Hynes
Counsel:	Lauren Wustenberg
Senior Professional Staff:	Callie Eideberg
Senior Professional Staff:	Kirin Kennedy
Senior Professional Staff:	Mikayla Bodey
Senior Professional Staff:	Brandon Honeycutt
Senior Professional Staff:	Kyle Varner
Senior Professional Staff:	Josh Tonsager
Senior Professional Staff:	Claire Borzner
Professional Staff:	Khadija Jahfiya
Professional Staff:	Alex Noffsinger
Professional Staff:	Chris Neubert
Policy Analyst:	Allie Lock
Policy Analyst:	Courtney Knight
Press Secretary:	Jay Tilton
Deputy Press Secretary:	Elizabeth Rivera

### MINORITY

Staff Director:	Fitz Elder
Policy Director:	Chelsie Keys
Chief Economist:	John Newton
Chief Counsel:	Jackie Barber
General Counsel:	Andrew Rezendes
Professional Staff/Counsel:	Dudley Hoskins
Senior Professional Staff:	Katherine Thomas
Senior Professional Staff:	Eric Slee
Professional Staff:	Carley Esser
Professional Staff:	Coleman Garrison
Professional Staff:	Jeremy Witte
Professional Staff:	Nathan Anonick
Professional Staff:	Trey Forsyth
Policy Analyst:	Macie Kelly
Legislative Assistant:	Brooke Taylor
Legislative Aide:	Kate Covington
Communications Director:	Patrick Creamer



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

## MAJORITY

Chair: G.T. Thompson (PA-15)  
Frank Lucas (OK-03)  
Vice Chair: Austin Scott (GA-08)  
Rick Crawford (AR-01)  
Scott DesJarlais (TN-04)  
Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)  
David Rouzer (NC-07)  
Trent Kelly (MS-01)  
Don Bacon (NE-02)  
Mike Bost (IL-12)  
Dusty Johnson (SD-AL)  
Jim Baird (IN-04)  
Tracey Mann (KS-01)  
Randy Feenstra (IA-04)  
Mary Miller (IL-15)  
Barry Moore (AL-02)  
Kat Cammack (FL-03)  
Brad Finstad (MN-01)  
John Rose (TN-06)  
Ronny Jackson (TX-13)  
Marc Molinaro (NY-19)  
Monica De La Cruz (TX-15)  
Nick Langworthy (NY-23)  
John Duarte (CA-13)  
Zach Nunn (IA-03)  
Mark Alford (MO-04)  
Derrick Van Orden (WI-03)  
Lori Chavez-DeRemer (OR-05)  
Max Miller (OH-07)

## MINORITY

Ranking: David Scott (GA-13)  
Jim Costa (CA-21)  
Jim McGovern (MA-02)  
Alma Adams (NC-12)  
Abigail Spanberger (VA-07)  
Jahana Hayes (CT-05)  
Shontel Brown (OH-11)  
Sharice Davids (KS-03)  
Elissa Slotkin (MI-07)  
Yadira Caraveo (CO-08)  
Andrea Salinas (OR-06)  
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-03)  
Don Davis (NC-01)  
Jill Tokuda (HI-02)  
Nikki Budzinski (IL-13)  
Eric Sorensen (IL-17)  
Gabe Vasquez (NM-02)  
Jasmine Crockett (TX-30)  
Jonathan Jackson (IL-01)  
Greg Casar (TX-35)  
Salud Carbajal (CA-24)  
Angie Craig (MN-02)  
Chellie Pingree (ME-01)  
Darren Soto (FL-09)  
Sanford Bishop (GA-02)

## STAFF

*\* as of 5/17/23*

### MAJORITY

Staff Director: Parish Braden  
Deputy Staff Director: Jennifer Tiller  
Policy Director: Joshua Maxwell  
Chief Economist: Justin Benavidez  
Chief Counsel: Patricia Straughn  
Deputy General Counsel: Wick Dudley  
Senior Counsel: Caleb Crosswhite  
Senior Special Counsel: Kevin Webb  
Sr. Professional Staff: Paul Balzano  
Sr. Professional Staff: Trevor White  
Sr. Professional Staff: Ricki Schroeder  
Professional Staff: John Busovsky  
Professional Staff: Nick Rockwell  
Legislative Assistant: Adele Borne  
Legislative Assistant: Halee Fisher  
Legislative Assistant: Harlea Hoelscher  
Legislative Assistant: Justina Graff  
Director of Member Services  
& Coalitions: Erin Wilson

### MINORITY

Staff Director: Anne Simmons  
Deputy Staff Director: Ashley Smith  
Policy Director: Kate Fink  
Chief Counsel: Michael Stein  
Counsel: Josh Lobert  
Subcomm. Staff Director: Emily German  
Subcomm. Staff Director: Daniel Feingold  
Sr. Professional Staff: Lisa Shelton  
Professional Staff: Katherine Stewart  
Economist/Sr. Policy Analyst: Emily Pliscott  
Sr. Policy Analyst: DeShawn Blanding  
Legislative Assistant: Elaine Zhang



# SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION, SPECIALTY CROPS, ORGANICS AND RESEARCH

## MAJORITY

Chair: John Fetterman (PA)  
Sherrod Brown (OH)  
Amy Klobuchar (MN)  
Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)  
Cory Booker (NJ)  
Raphael Warnock (GA)

## MINORITY

Ranking: Mike Braun (IN)  
Mitch McConnell (KY)  
Joni Ernst (IA)  
Roger Marshall (KS)  
Tommy Tuberville (AL)

Freshman Senator John Fetterman (D-PA) has taken over as Chair of the subcommittee and Senator Mike Braun (R-IN) has returned as the Ranking Member. The Senate Agriculture Committee also underwent some structural changes for the 118th, giving greater autonomy to the subcommittees to organize stakeholder hearings on farm bill topics.

# HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, RESEARCH, AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

## MAJORITY

Chair: Jim Baird (IN-04)  
Mike Bost (IL-12)  
Frank Lucas (OK-03)  
Mary Miller (IL-15)  
Brad Finstad (MN-01)  
John Duarte (CA-13)  
Mark Alford (MO-04)

## MINORITY

Ranking: Abigail Spanberger (VA-07)  
Sharice Davids (KS-03)  
Elissa Slotkin (MI-07)  
Nikki Budzinski (IL-13)  
Eric Sorensen (IL-17)  
Jill Tokuda (HI-02)  
Gabe Vasquez (NM-02)

Under Chairman Thompson's leadership, the House Agriculture subcommittee structure changed for the 118th Congress, with conservation joining with research and biotechnology. Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN), who served as the Ranking Member of the research subcommittee in the 117th Congress, is now serving as Chair, with Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) serving as the top Democrat.

## NOTABLE MARKER BILLS

### ADVANCING CUTTING EDGE (ACE) AGRICULTURE ACT

- Bipartisan, bicameral.
- Doubles the budget of the USDA advanced research program, AgARDA, to \$100 million and adds climate resilience as a research priority.

### AGRICULTURE RESILIENCE ACT

- Bicameral, Democrat only.
- This sweeping bill aims to reduce the climate impact of the agricultural sector with the goal of achieving net zero emission by 2040. This bill would significantly grow the climate research portfolio at USDA.

### BIOCHAR RESEARCH NETWORK ACT

- Bipartisan, bicameral.
- The bill would establish a national biochar research network at USDA to study the benefits of biochar across different soils, regions, and land uses.

### PLANT BIOSTIMULANT ACT

- Bipartisan, bicameral.
- The bill would define "plant biostimulant" and require a study on how biostimulants impact soil health.



# MEET THE TEAM

## ABOUT TAG:

Food and agricultural organizations that need the right results in Washington, D.C. can trust Torrey Advisory Group 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.



### MIKE TORREY

#### PRESIDENT

mtorrey@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

CFTC, Dairy, Checkoffs, Association Management



### TARA SMITH

#### EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

tsmith@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Farm Bill, Commodities, Crop Insurance, Forestry, Climate Policy



### BARBARA PATTERSON

#### VICE PRESIDENT

bpatterson@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Research, Nutrition, Food Safety, Animal Health, Hunger Policy



### CASSANDRA KUBALL

#### VICE PRESIDENT

ckuball@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Trade, Immigration, Dairy, Supply Chain, Biotech



### JAMES GLUECK

#### VICE PRESIDENT

jglueck@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Farm Bill, Biotech, Commodity Markets, Biofuels, Value Chain



### KATIE NAESSENS

#### VICE PRESIDENT

knaessens@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Specialty Crops, Rural Development, Local Food Systems, Organics, Food Safety



### JULIE MCCLURE

#### VICE PRESIDENT

jmcclure@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Research, Climate Policy, Farm Bill, Appropriations, Biotech



### DANIELLE NELSON

#### DIRECTOR

dnelson@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Animal Ag, Ag Inputs, Tax Issues, Appropriations



### ASHLEY SMITH

#### DIRECTOR

asmith@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Animal Ag, Commodities, Biofuels, Communications



### OLIVIA LUCANIE

#### POLICY MANAGER

olucanie@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Policy Research, Stakeholder Engagement, Food Systems, Fly-Ins



### PERRY HARLOW

#### MEMBER & EVENTS MANAGER

pharlow@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Grant Management, Association Administration, Event Management, PAC Management



### CAROLINE SNELL

#### POLICY COORDINATOR

csnell@torreydc.com

#### Specialties:

Policy Research, Fly-Ins, Elections Tracking, Communications Support

