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

## INSIDE

The Future of the Farm Bill  
Committee Overview  
Meet the TAG Team



**TORREY  
ADVISORY  
GROUP**

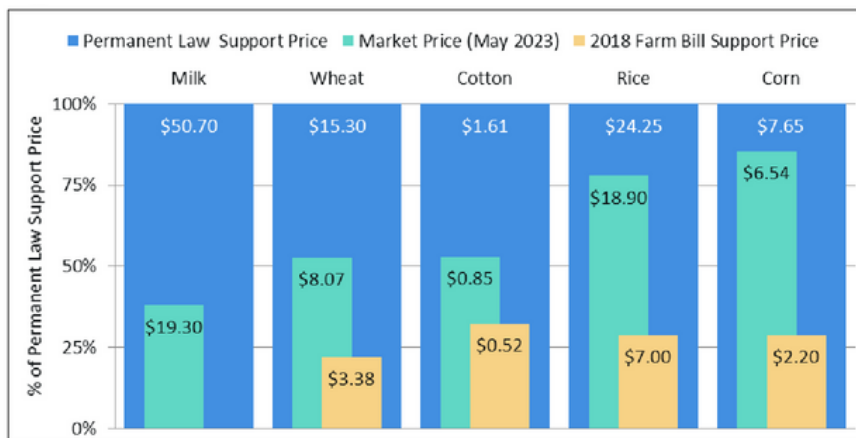
# THE FUTURE OF THE FARM BILL

For more information, access these Congressional Research Service reports:

- [Expiration of the Farm Bill - August 2023](#)
- [Farm Bill Primer: Programs Without Baseline Beyond FY2023 - September 2023](#)

## THE FARM BILL EXPIRED - NOW WHAT?

- There are two principal expiration dates: September 30, 2023 (the end of the last fiscal year), and December 31, 2023 (the end of the current crop year).
- Some programs, like crop insurance, are permanently authorized and do not expire.
- Some programs were already extended through FY 2031 by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
- The appropriations process or a continuing resolution could be used to continue operations of discretionary programs that are not currently funded past FY 2023.
- “Permanent law” would begin to go into effect on January 1, 2024.
- Under permanent law, USDA would be required to purchase eligible commodities (dairy, wheat, corn, cotton, and rice) at prices that exceed current market prices, incurring billions of dollars of additional government expenditures. Dairy is the first commodity to be affected in the new crop year. Other major crops, including soybeans, do not receive support under permanent law.
- To actually implement permanent law, USDA might need weeks or months to write and publish new regulations.



### PERMANENT LAW VS MARKET PRICES

Source: Congressional Research Service using USDA NASS data

## A LOOK BACK AT PAST FARM BILLS:

- Recent farm bills have faced legislative hurdles for enactment, such as insufficient votes to pass the House floor, presidential vetoes, and delays resulting in short-term extensions.

### 2002 FARM BILL

- Expired at the end of 2007.
- Portions were extended a total of six times in spring 2008, for less than a year total.

### 2008 FARM BILL

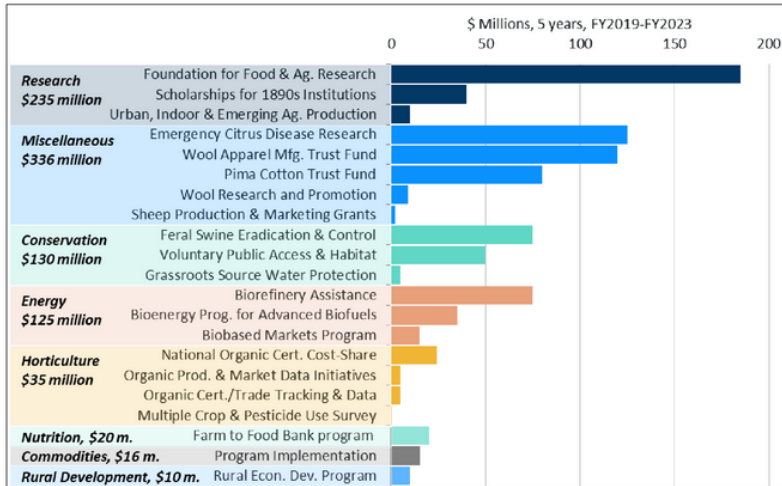
- Expired at the end of 2012.
- Extended for one year in 2013 to cover FY 2013 and the 2013 crop year because the 112th Congress was about to end.
- When the extension expired at the end of 2013, it was not renewed because a conference agreement was near and the “dairy cliff” was delayed.

### 2014 FARM BILL

- Was not extended because the 2018 Farm Bill was enacted between the end of the fiscal year and the end of the calendar year.
- Appropriations kept many programs operating during the in-between period.

## PROGRAMS WITHOUT BASELINE:

- Some newer, smaller farm bill programs are not a part of the farm bill baseline because they either have mandatory spending less than the \$50 million minimum threshold or were not provided baseline by the authorizing or budget committees.
- Based on September 2023 analysis by the Congressional Research Service, the 2018 Farm Bill has 21 expiring programs totaling \$906 million across eight of its 12 titles.
- For comparison, the 2014 Farm Bill had 39 expiring programs totaling \$2.824 billion.
- The smaller number of programs with no baseline and a smaller dollar amount could make it easier for Congress to balance some budget considerations in the next farm bill.



### 2018 FARM BILL PROGRAMS WITHOUT A BUDGET BASELINE AFTER FY 2023

Source: Congressional Research Service

## ACTIONS TO WATCH:

### BIG PICTURE

- Congress narrowly avoided a shutdown by passing a Continuing Resolution that keeps the government funded until November 17.
- As of October 3, the House had only passed four of its 12 FY 2024 appropriations bills. The Agriculture-FDA spending bill failed on the House floor on September 28. The Senate plans to move its first three appropriations bills, including agriculture, in mid-October.
- In a concession to conservatives to secure the speakership, Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) changed the the motion to vacate process to allow a single House member to force the chamber to consider dismissing the speaker.
- Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) introduced a motion to vacate on October 2 that was successful in removing McCarthy, kicking off a process delaying all other votes until a new speaker is elected. On October 11, current House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) secured the GOP nomination to take the gavel, but a full vote of the House has yet to occur.
- This, and the continued focus on appropriations, has slowed progress on the farm bill. House and Senate dynamics could also indicate an extension of the current farm bill will be required to continue negotiations, but how long is still uncertain.

### SENATE

- Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) continues to publicly push for passage of a bipartisan farm bill by the end of 2023, although the looming deadline in November to keep the government funded adds uncertainty.
- Differences between Democrats and Republicans still need to be resolved over how to utilize \$40 billion from the IRA for conservation, forestry, and rural development programs in the farm bill.

### HOUSE

- House Agriculture Chair GT Thompson (R-PA) said he will not release the text of farm bill draft until a week before a vote is scheduled on the House floor for the legislation.
- It is unclear how the new speaker may impact the farm bill process. Rep. Scalise voted in favor of the 2018 Farm Bill but voted against the 2008 and 2014 Farm Bills.

# 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)  
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### MINORITY

Ranking: John Boozman (AR)  
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John Hoeven (ND)  
Joni Ernst (IA)  
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Roger Marshall (KS)  
Tommy Tuberville (AL)  
Mike Braun (IN)  
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John Thune (SD)  
Deb Fischer (NE)

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*\* as of 10/12/23*

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# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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Frank Lucas (OK-03)  
Vice Chair: Austin Scott (GA-08)  
Rick Crawford (AR-01)  
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David Rouzer (NC-07)  
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Don Bacon (NE-02)  
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Randy Feenstra (IA-04)  
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Ronny Jackson (TX-13)  
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Zach Nunn (IA-03)  
Mark Alford (MO-04)  
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Lori Chavez-DeRemer (OR-05)  
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Yadira Caraveo (CO-08)  
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# MEET THE POLICY 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.



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