



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

## THE 2024 FARM BILL

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**Title I: Commodities.** Aids farmers in managing risk and provides assistance following precipitous declines in commodity prices. Through the reauthorization and enhancement of commodity, marketing loan, sugar, dairy, and disaster programs, producers are provided some certainty in times of unpredictability.

- Increases support for the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) programs to account for persistent inflation and rising costs of production.
- Provides authority to expand base acres to include producers who currently cannot participate in ARC/PLC.
- Modernizes marketing loans and sugar policy.
- Bolsters dairy programs to continue providing vital assistance.
- Enhances standing disaster programs and expands eligibility for assistance.

**Title II: Conservation.** Provides farmers, ranchers, and growers with financial and technical assistance to address a variety of natural resource concerns such as soil health and erosion, water quality and quantity, and wildlife habitat. The 2024 farm bill continues to support our proven system of voluntary, incentive-based, and locally led conservation through various improvements.

- Provides historic investment in Title II by reallocating IRA conservation dollars and expands covered conservation practices.
- Protects and enhances working lands conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) while promoting precision agriculture.
- Includes common-sense easement reforms and protects working forest lands through the newly authorized Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP).
- Streamlines and improves program administration for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), the Technical Service Provider Program (TSP), and P.L. 566.
- Modernizes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) by incentivizing enrollment of marginal lands and emphasizing state partnerships.
- Reauthorizes and funds successful programs such as the Feral Swine Eradication Program and the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP).
- Emphasizes science, technology, and innovation, including within the conservation practice standards establishment and review processes.

**Title III: Trade.** Agriculture is the backbone to most of the world's economies, and robust promotion programs not only create market access, but protect our agricultural interests and act as a catalyst for innovation and economic growth. By expanding the reach and impact of the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program, the 2024 farm bill will mitigate global food insecurity while providing U.S. producers new markets, improving local economies, and lessening the damage of this Administration's ineffective trade agenda.

- Substantially increases funding for MAP/FMD.
- Prioritizes U.S. commodities rather than unlimited market-based assistance.
- Balances the authorities of USAID with those of USDA.
- Lessens the bureaucracy associated with programs meant to respond to immediate crises.
- Addresses trade barriers and infrastructure deficiencies.
- Fosters education partnerships to ensure developing countries can benefit from our nation's advanced research and developing technologies.

**Title IV: Nutrition.** Supports access to families formerly disallowed to receive benefits, refocuses work programs to support upward mobility, invests in and modernizes food distribution programs to create parity with urban programming, promotes program integrity and State accountability, and advances policies related to healthy eating, healthy behaviors, and healthy outcomes.

- Provides additional financial resources across multiple programs that have successfully benefited tribal communities, seniors, and households pursuing healthier options.
- Offers significant opportunities for individuals to remain on their current career pathways without choosing between SNAP and employment.
- Creates new access for participants either formerly disallowed or beholden to arcane restriction.
- Corrects egregious Executive branch overreach and disallows future unelected bureaucrats from arbitrarily increasing or decimating SNAP benefits.
- Creates a stronger, more sustainable connection between health and federal feeding programs.
- Holds USDA and States accountable to the generosity of the American taxpayer.

**Title V: Credit.** Our nation's producers borrow more capital in a single harvest season than most Americans do in their entire lives. Interest rates have exploded under the Biden Administration, resulting in skyrocketing borrowing costs which fall especially hard on our nation's younger, less established producers. Programs within the credit title are instrumental in helping producers both start and maintain their operations.

- Enhances financing options for producers who are unable to obtain credit from a commercial lender.
- Provides resources to new, young, beginning, and veteran farmers in their transition to farming and ranching.
- Protects and enhances the ability of commercial lenders to provide rural America with a reliable source of credit and capital.



**Title VI: Rural Development.** Programs offered by the USDA's Rural Development play a vital role in enhancing rural life and fostering economic growth. The 2024 farm bill continues the long history of bipartisan support for rural development initiatives and implements important improvements to ensure a robust rural economy.

- Strengthens broadband connectivity to rural communities.
- Improves precision agriculture practices and increasing accessibility of precision agriculture services.
- Protects access to health care in rural America.
- Enhances efforts to meet the childcare demands in rural areas.
- Addresses existing workforce challenges within rural communities to effectively meet their needs.
- Encourages private capital investments in rural communities.
- Streamlines the permitting process for Rural Development projects.

**Title VII: Research, Extension, and Related Matters.** Keeps American agriculture at the forefront of innovation and productivity through cutting-edge research and supports the nation's land-grant and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture.

- Supports the modernization of agricultural research facilities by providing funding for the Research Facilities Act.
- Increases funding for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.
- Allocates funding for research and development of mechanization and automation technologies for the specialty crop industry.
- Maintains funding for the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program.
- Provides continued funding for scholarships for students at 1890 institutions.
- Promotes interagency coordination to further agricultural research at other Federal agencies.

**Title VIII: Forestry.** Promotes active forest management through incentivizing public-private partnerships creating new market opportunities and revitalizing rural communities while reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health. to ensure healthy and productive Federal, State, Tribal and private forests.

- Incentivizes active forest management through public-private partnerships by expanding existing authorities like the Good Neighbor Authority and the Stewardship End Result Contracting.
- Creates new and enhances existing market opportunities for forest products, including existing and new data sources and tools, investing in innovative wood products, and expanding the use of biochar.
- Revitalizes rural communities and forest health through cross-boundary authorities.
- Simplifies environmental process requirements, while ensuring environmental protection by building upon the success of categorical exclusions and other streamlined authorities.



**Title IX: Energy.** Increases access to energy system and efficiency updates for farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses while encouraging growth and innovation for biofuels, bioproducts, and related feedstocks.

- Allow for critical cost and energy savings by increasing access to the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).
- Streamlines program delivery and enhances program integrity for biobased market programs and biofuels and bioproducts development programs like the BioPreferred Program and the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program.
- Protects investments in higher blends infrastructure.
- Requires the Administration to study the impacts of solar installations on prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland.

**Title X: Horticulture, Marketing, and Regulatory Reform.** Critical investments enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops and protect plant health. Delivers commonsense regulatory reforms necessary to relieve American farmers and ranchers from overregulation by the Biden Administration.

- Provides additional funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and directs program administrators to consult with specialty crop producers when setting priorities for the program.
- Increases funding for plant pest and disease management to further safeguard American agriculture and natural resources.
- Maintains funding for the Local Agriculture Market Program and improves program delivery through simplified applications.
- Continues support for organic production through the National Organic Program, Organic Production and Market Data Initiative, and National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program.

**Title XI: Crop Insurance.** Agricultural producers are greatly affected by numerous factors outside of their control, ranging from extreme weather to geopolitical instability. Crop insurance – a vital risk management tool – is available to help producers manage the unique risks of farming and is delivered through an effective public-private partnership in which the Federal government shares in the cost of the premiums, which would otherwise be unaffordable for most farmers.

- Expands premium assistance for beginning and veteran farmers.
- Directs research and development of new policies and establishes an advisory committee for more robust engagement with specialty crop producers.
- Enhances certain coverage options to reduce the need for unbudgeted ad hoc disaster assistance.
- Bolsters the private sector delivery system.



**Title XII: Miscellaneous.** Brings together provisions related to livestock health and management, foreign animal disease preparedness, young and beginning farmers, and other key areas. Directs additional resources towards the three-legged stool to protect the entire livestock and poultry industry in the U.S. from foreign animal diseases.

- Provides guidance documents and other resources for small and very small meat and poultry processing facilities.
- Allows livestock auction owners to invest in packing facilities, subject to head per day capacity limitations.
- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to work in consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate animal disease regionalization agreements with our trading partners.
- Enhances protections for dogs covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).
- Clarifies that states and local governments cannot impose a condition or standard on the production of covered livestock unless the livestock is physically located within such state or local government.
- Requires the Secretary to conduct regular assessments to identify risks and security vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector.
- Reforms certain reporting requirements under the Agriculture and Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) to ensure accuracy and transparency of data on farmland owned by foreign persons or entities.

