

THE FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2026

BACKGROUND:

The Farm Bill is a multi-year authorization designed to be renewed every five years. It contains almost all the agricultural and nutrition related bills that will be considered for authorization by Congress at any time. Without the passage of an updated farm bill, federal food and farm programs become outdated and out-of-touch with the real-world needs of farmers, ranchers, and families. The Farm Bill is the authorizing legislation for the Agricultural Risk Coverage, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Market Access Program, Agriculture Food Research Initiative, and many more programs run out of the Department of Agriculture.

FARM BILL TITLES:

Title I – Commodities: Arguably the most important title of the entire bill, Title I authorizes the farm safety net, which fortifies American agriculture against unpredictable market disruptions and disasters. Some of the major commodities impacted by the provisions of this title are: wheat, corn, soybeans, peanuts, rice, dairy and sugar. Without passage of the Farm Bill, the disaster programs that farmers depend upon will lag behind modern costs and catastrophes.

Title II – Conservation: Covers the authorizations for federal research and grant programs that advance and incentivize restorative practices—for both farmers and ranchers—which protect soil health, water quality and quantity, and wildlife habitats. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are prime examples of the essential conservation programs authorized by this title.

Title III – Trade: The U.S. is the second largest agricultural trader in the world, exporting over \$170 billion and importing over \$200 billion in agricultural products annually. The trade decisions made by the federal government therefore significantly impact the success of farmers both at home and abroad. Congress can safeguard American agricultural products and producers on the international market through the programs included in Title III. This includes the MAP, FMD, EMP, TASC, and PTF programs. In this year's Farm Bill, the Food for Peace Act authority is transferred from USAID to USDA.

Title IV – Nutrition: Includes various nutrition programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which offer food security for low-income Americans. This year, the Nutrition Title is largely designed to prioritize innovation and prevent fraud, while creating a stronger, more sustainable connection between health and federal nutrition programs by aligning nutrition benefits with new federal dietary guidelines.

Title V – Credit: Each growing season, American farmers rely on federal loans and grants to front the cost of planting the crops that feed America. Due to inflation and increased interest rates, it is more important now than ever that Congress updates Title V authorizations and funding to meet modern demands. Provisions in this title are also designed to attract new young farmers to the trade by providing resources to expand their access to credit and capital.



Contact: Stephanie Gross, Policy Advisor, Stephanie.Gross@mail.house.gov

FARM BILL TITLES CONTINUED:

Title VI – Rural Development: Rural communities across the U.S. face a unique set of challenges. The Rural Development title addresses these disparities and creates solutions through strategic investments and innovations, such as broadband connectivity, protecting rural access to healthcare, enhancing efforts to meet their childcare demands, addressing their workforce challenges, encouraging capital investments in their communities, and strengthening their water infrastructure.

Title VII – Research, Extension, and Related Matters: This is a more general title, which invests in research and development to advance agriculture and assist rural communities, including the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Centers of Excellence, and the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. Through this title, Congress can invest in valuable research that advances American agriculture while also distributing funds for land-grant universities, 1890 institutions, and local education programs.

Title VIII – Forestry: Within the forestry title is a key opportunity for Congress to streamline and reauthorize integral forest management and wildfire prevention programs, including the Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship End Result Contracting programs. It also includes important provisions that expand the marketability of forest products and biochar. Additionally, this title simplifies much of the environmental process requirements that have historically slowed forest management.

Title IX – Energy: The Energy Title addresses the unique energy needs of farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through strategic investments, loan authorizations, and biofuel programs. The 2026 reauthorization includes increased loan guarantees for REAP and the streamlining of biobased market programs, and development programs for biofuels and bioproducts.

Title X – Horticulture, Marketing, and Regulatory Reforms: Specialty crops like fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, and nursery crops require their own protections and projects. This title reauthorizes and streamlines the grants, loans, and programs that keep specialty crop programs afloat. This includes the Local Agricultural Market Program, National Organic Program, and more. Also included in the 2026 Farm Bill are specific provisions to reduce regulatory burdens for producers of industrial hemp and clarifications for the USDA's regulation of pesticides.

Title XI – Crop Insurance: Title XI sets the rates for federal crop insurance programs that financially fortify producers from crop-destroying disasters like fires, floods, tornadoes, and drought. This Farm Bill builds upon the crop insurance authorizations passed in H.R. 1 by expanding coverage areas, creating research and development programs to study specialty crops, and establishing a specialty crop advisory committee.

Title XII – Miscellaneous: The last title is a "catch-all," covering programs outside the areas of the other eleven titles, such as animal disease response, international animal and livestock trade, meat processing facilities, animal welfare, farmland ownership transparency, and much more.



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