

THE FARM BILL AND THE MINORITY FARMER

APRIL S. LOVE, POLICY ANALYST



FARM BILL OVERVIEW

UNDERSTANDING AGRICULTURAL POLICY

WHAT IS THE FARM BILL?

THE FARM BILL IS A COMPREHENSIVE PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT SETS AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICIES AND IS REVISED EVERY FIVE YEARS BY CONGRESS. IT INCLUDES TWELVE TITLES ADDRESSING VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS. EACH ITERATION OF THE FARM BILL UNDERGOES A THOROUGH PROCESS OF PROPOSAL, DEBATE, AND APPROVAL BY CONGRESS BEFORE BEING SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE PRESIDENT. THE CURRENT FARM BILL IS THE AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018.

TITLE 1

THE COMMODITIES TITLE PROVIDES PRICE AND INCOME SUPPORT FOR FARMERS OF NON-PERISHABLE CROPS LIKE CORN, SOYBEANS, WHEAT, RICE, AS WELL AS DAIRY AND SUGAR. IT ALSO INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

TITLE 3

TRADE. THE TRADE TITLE COVERS FOOD EXPORT SUBSIDY PROGRAMS AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID PROGRAMS.

TITLE 2

THE CONSERVATION TITLE SUPPORTS PROGRAMS THAT HELP FARMERS WITH NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION ON WORKING LANDS, LIKE PASTURE AND CROPLAND, AS WELL AS LAND RETIREMENT AND EASEMENT PROGRAMS.

TITLE 4

THE NUTRITION TITLE INCLUDES THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND OTHER SMALLER PROGRAMS THAT HELP LOW-INCOME AMERICANS AFFORD FOOD.

TITLE 5

THE CREDIT TITLE PROVIDES FEDERAL LOAN PROGRAMS TO HELP FARMERS ACCESS THE FINANCIAL CREDIT NEEDED TO GROW AND SUSTAIN THEIR OPERATIONS.

TITLE 6

THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT TITLE SUPPORTS PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS RURAL HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

TITLE 7

THE RESEARCH TITLE FUNDS FARM AND FOOD RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS, SUPPORTING INNOVATION AND TRAINING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

TITLE 8

THE FORESTRY TITLE SUPPORTS CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON HELPING FARMERS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES MANAGE AND PROTECT FOREST RESOURCES.

TITLE 9

THE ENERGY TITLE SUPPORTS PROGRAMS FOR BIOFUEL CROP PRODUCTION, RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM INSTALLATION, AND ENERGY-RELATED RESEARCH.

TITLE 10

THE HORTICULTURE TITLE SUPPORTS FARMERS MARKETS, LOCAL FOOD PROGRAMS, RESEARCH AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, AND ORGANIC FARMING AND CERTIFICATION.

TITLE 11

THE CROP INSURANCE TITLE OFFERS PREMIUM SUBSIDIES FOR FARMERS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES TO PROTECT AGAINST CROP LOSSES AND GRANTS THE USDA'S RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA) AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP AND ADJUST INSURANCE POLICIES.

TITLE 12

THE MISCELLANEOUS TITLE COVERS VARIOUS AREAS, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING, SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED, AND VETERAN FARMERS, AGRICULTURAL LABOR SAFETY, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND LIVESTOCK HEALTH.

FARM BILL PROCESS

HOUSE AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE
DRAFT

HOUSE FLOOR

HOUSE FLOOR

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

SENATE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE
DRAFT

SENATE FLOOR

SENATE FLOOR

Farm Bill Process

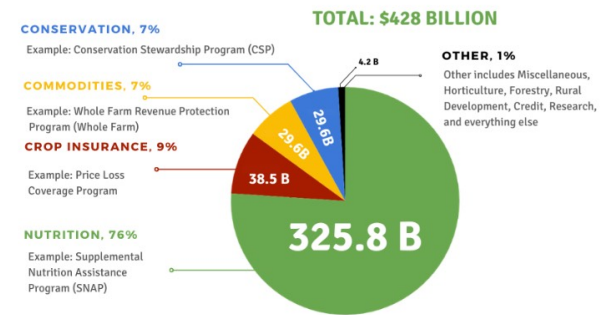
Once the farm bill is signed into law, Congress begins the Appropriations process for the federal budget to fund the programs in the farm bill.

Some farm bill programs - are written in such a way that their funding is guaranteed with 'mandatory money' that will automatically support the program every year. Other programs are authorized but funded through discretionary spending, meaning it must decide each year how much funding (if any) to award a program.

Happening concurrently with the annual appropriations process is rulemaking, where the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for writing the actual rules for how these programs will be implemented.

HOW IS THE FARM BILL DIVIDED?

FARM BILL PROJECTED FUNDING, IN BILLIONS 2019-2023



2023 FARM BILL UPDATE



HOW DOES THE POLICY CENTER FACTOR INTO THIS?

MISSION

Conduct research, analyze policy and make recommendations seeking to achieve equitable and economic integration of USDA programs and policies for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, communities and rural landowners

VISION

To be the premiere authority for information on the history, current conditions, trends and future projections of socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers (SDFR) and communities

RESEARCH PRIORITY AREAS:

Impact of
current
agriculture
policy on SDFR

Land Loss
Among African
American
Farmers

Original
Four Areas

Youth
Programs
and Pipeline

Participation of
SDFR in USDA
Programs

Access to and
use of
technology

Community
and Urban
Agriculture

POLICY CENTER POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

HEIRS PROPERTY AND
LAND LOSS

RACIAL EQUITY

YOUTH PROGRAMS

ACCESS TO CREDIT
AND CAPITAL

URBAN AGRICULTURE

1890 LAND-GRANT
INSTITUTIONS

RESOURCES

- “WHAT IS THE FARM BILL”-NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COALITION
- “FARM BILL PRIMER: WHAT IS THE FARM BILL”-CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE
- “CONGRESSIONAL DESK BOOK: THE PRACTICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO CONGRESS” - JUDY SCHNEIDER AND MICHAEL L. KOEMPEL

QUESTIONS?

CONNECT WITH THE POLICY CENTER!

ELORIS D. SPEIGHT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | ESPEIGHT@ALCORN.EDU

APRIL S. LOVE, POLICY ANALYST | ASLOVE@ALCORN.EDU

DR. KARA A. WOODS, RESEARCH ANALYST | KAWOODS@ALCORN.EDU

TONYA GRAY JENKINS, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST | KPJENKINS@ALCORN.EDU

JACKSON LEE, MANAGEMENT ANALYST | JBLEE@ALCORN.EDU

ROSELYN TURNER, POLICY PROGRAM COORDINATOR | RTURNER@ALCORN.EDU

**SDFR Policy Center
Website:**



**Subscribe to our
Podcast**

