

The Farm Bill

An overview of the Farm Bill reauthorization process and key updates
September 2024 | Rosy Brummette Weber

Presentation Outline

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What is the Farm Bill?

- The Farm Bill is an omnibus, multiyear law that governs an array of agriculture, rural and food programs.
- The farm bill is typically renewed every five years.
- Since the 1930s, Congress has enacted 18 Farm Bills.
- In recent history, there have been 12 titles of the Farm Bill.
- Congress extended the 2018 Farm Bill for 1 year, which now expires on **September 30, 2024**.

The 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)

Title I, Commodities: Provides support for major crops, including wheat, corn, soybeans, peanuts, and sugar, as well as disaster assistance.

Title II, Conservation: Encourages environmental stewardship of farmlands and improved management through conservation programs, working lands programs, or both.

Title III, Trade: Supports U.S. agricultural exports and international food assistance programs.

Title IV, Nutrition: Provides nutrition assistance to low-income households through programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Title V, Credit: Offers direct government loans and loan guarantees to producers to buy land and operate farms.

Title VI, Rural Development: Supports rural infrastructure, community facilities, business, and utility programs through grants, loans, and guarantees.

Title VII, Research, Extension, and Related Activities: Supports agricultural research and extension to disseminate academic knowledge and help producers benefit from research.

Title VIII, Forestry: Supports forestry management and programs run by USDA's Forest Service.

Title IX, Energy: Encourages the development of rural community renewable energy systems through grants and loan guarantees.

Title X, Horticulture: Supports the production of specialty crops, USDA-certified organic foods, and local food systems and authorizes a regulatory framework for imported produce.

Title XI, Crop Insurance: Enhances risk management through the permanently authorized Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

Title XII, Miscellaneous: Includes programs for specialty crops, livestock and poultry production, support for rural communities and ranchers, and other miscellaneous and general provisions.

The Key Negotiators

The U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry



Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)



Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR)

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture

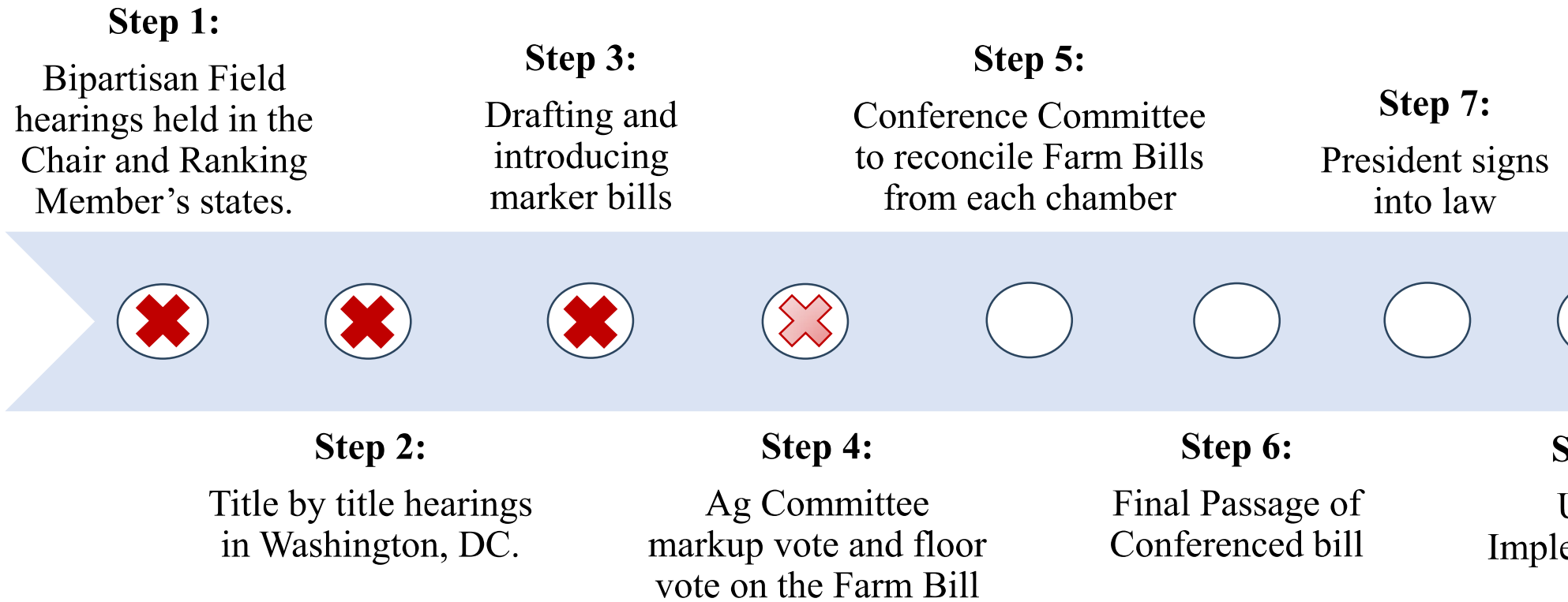


Chairman GT Thompson (R-PA)



Ranking Member

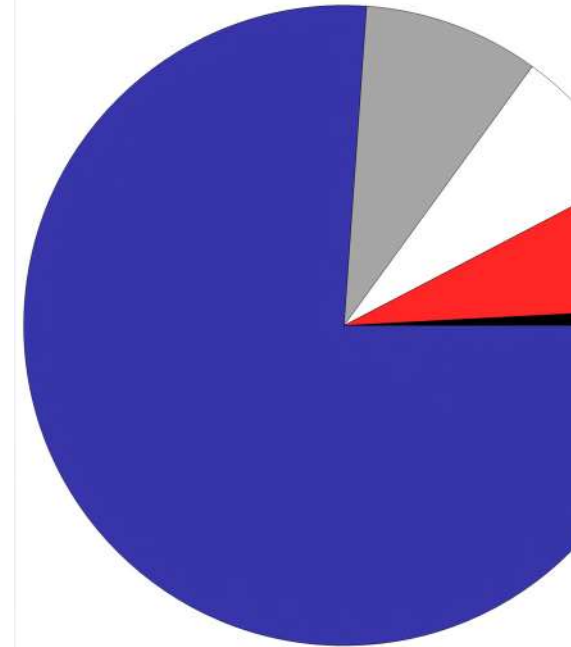
2023 Farm Bill Process & Timeline



Spending in the Farm Bill

- Farm Bills authorize programs in two spending categories: (1) mandatory dollars and (2) discretionary dollars.
- Total Cost of mandatory programs in the 2018 Farm Bill was **\$428 billion** over 5 years.
 - Four titles accounted for 99% of the 2018 farm bill's mandatory spending:
 1. Nutrition (primarily SNAP)
 2. Commodities
 3. Crop Insurance
 4. Conservation
- **Mandatory spending programs** generally operate as entitlements, or the assumption that spending will continue in the future based on current law.
- **Discretionary spending programs** are authorized by the Farm Bill and then funded through the annual appropriations process.

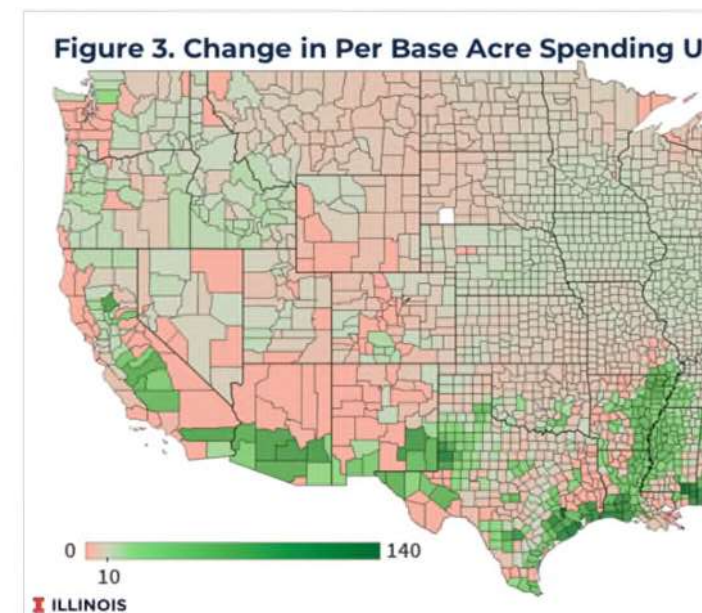
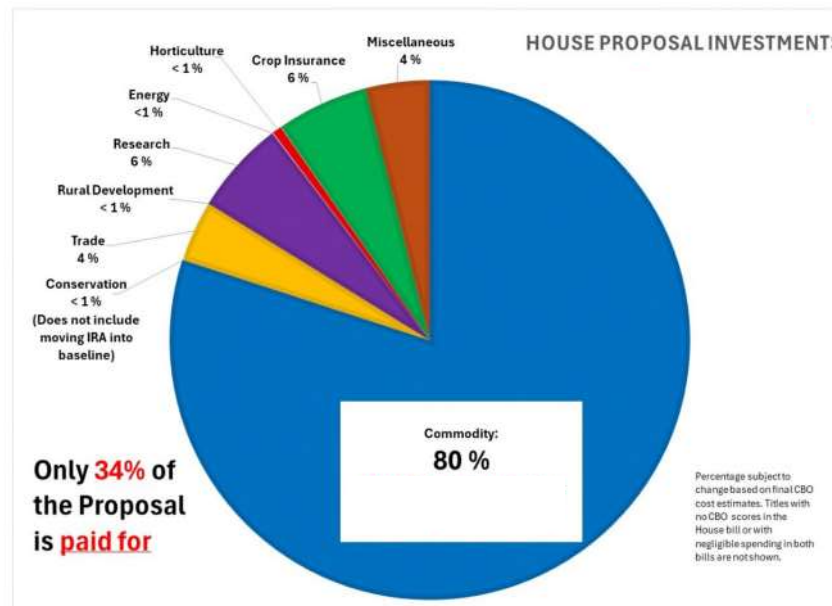
Projected outlays under the 2018 Farm Act, 2019-2023



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service based on Congressional Budget Office, "The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2019-2023," December 2018.

Spending in the House Farm Bill

- The House Agriculture Committee marked up and passed the **Farm, Food and Nutrition Security Act of 2024, H.R. 8467** on May 24, 2024.
 - Bipartisan vote of 33-21.
- According to the [Congressional Budget Office](#), H.R. 8467 adds **\$32.9 billion** to the a 10 year period.
 - Increases to Commodity Programs, Crop Insurance, Research and Trade



XII Titles of the Farm Bill

The 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334), by Title

Title I, Commodities: Provides support for major commodity crops, including wheat, corn, soybeans, peanuts, rice, dairy, and sugar, as well as disaster assistance.

Title II, Conservation: Encourages environmental stewardship of farmlands and improved management through land retirement programs, working lands programs, or both.

Title III, Trade: Supports U.S. agricultural export programs and international food assistance programs.

Title IV, Nutrition: Provides nutrition assistance for low-income households through programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Title V, Credit: Offers direct government loans and guarantees to producers to buy land and operate farms and ranches.

Title VI, Rural Development: Supports rural housing, community facilities, business, and utility programs through grants, loans, and guarantees.

Title VII, Research, Extension, and Related Activities: Supports agricultural research and extension programs to disseminate academic knowledge and help producers be more competitive.

Title VIII, Forestry: Supports forestry management programs run by USDA's Forest Service.

Title IX, Energy: Encourages the development of rural and community renewable energy systems through grants and loan guarantees.

Title X, Horticulture: Supports the production of specialty crops, USDA-certified organic foods, and locally grown products, and authorizes a regulatory framework for industrial hemp.

Title XI, Crop Insurance: Enhances risk management programs for the permanently authorized Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

Title XII, Miscellaneous: Includes programs and activities for livestock and poultry production, support for beginning farmers and ranchers, and other miscellaneous and general provisions.

Senator Bennet's Farm Bill Priorities

Top Farm Bill Priorities:

1. Address the Western water crisis
2. Ensure USDA programs work for Colorado and the West
3. Invest in our forests and watershed health
4. Address climate change and deploy clean energy
5. Fight for families and strengthen local and regional food systems

Thank You!

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