

2023 Farm Bill Priorities

We support the following principles to guide development of programs in the next farm bill:

- Protecting agricultural program funding in the Farm Bill – including adjusting for inflation.
- Ensuring competitive local FSA wages for adequate staffing.
- The 2023 Farm Bill prioritizing family farms and slow the pace of agriculture sector consolidation.
- The 2023 Farm Bill prioritizing family farms.
- The 2023 Farm Bill being fair to all farmers and effectively administering all programs.

Title 1

We support:

- Updating base acres with every new Farm Bill;
- Increasing the effective reference price formula and reference price;
- Increasing commodity loan rates; and
- The opportunity for farmers to re-elect and/or re-enroll annually if current programs continue.

Dairy

We support:

- Reform the dairy pricing formula, back to “Higher of” as opposed to “Average of”;
- Retain the current Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC) with supplemental and feed cost updates;
- Increase DMC Tier 1 limit from 5 million pounds to between 6-10 million pounds;
- Update production averages to a three-year rolling average or current production for payment calculations; and
- All federal insurance programs related to the dairy industry taking into consideration negative Producer Price Differentials (PPDs) to ensure that farmers actually receive the margin that they insured.

Title II:

We support:

- CRP land payment rates should incentivize enrollment of sensitive land while discouraging enrollment of highly productive land;
- Funding for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with greater accessibility to farmers.
- New and continued conservation practices remain voluntary;

- Practices known to improve soil and water quality while avoiding wildlife management incentives; and
- Maintaining the current prioritization of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding being targeted to livestock producers.

Title VII

We support:

- Maintaining funding, with the possibility for additional funding, for the Animal Disease and Management Fund.

Title XI

We support:

- A robust crop insurance program, with no reductions in premium cost share; and
- Develop and maintain adequate risk management tools for livestock producers including contract growers.

We oppose:

- Means testing, income limits, or add in's, such as required production practices, that might limit the availability or adversely impact risk pools.

MISC:

We support:

- Greater emphasis by USDA and DOJ of enforcement of anti-trust laws and anti-competitive practices;
- Strengthening restrictions on foreign investment in agriculture; and
- Not tying conservation programming to a farms ESG score.

Trade

We support:

- Increased funding for the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program and Market Assistance Program (MAP).

Energy

We support:

- A comprehensive energy plan that focuses on domestic energy sources.

Research

We support:

- Funding for agricultural research and education;
- Funding a producer-directed, research-oriented specialty crop block grant program and the IR4 bio-pesticide research program for minor crops; and
- Funding for research into the health risks and strategies for mitigating risks associated with chemical contaminants in water and food such as PFAS.

Credit

We support:

- Streamlining loan programs and ensuring loan amounts keep pace with farm-level expenses; and
- Minimizing application requirements for young and beginning farmer guarantee programs so they are more aligned with agricultural lenders.

Specialty Crops

We support:

- Incorporating all types of domestic fruits and vegetables (fresh, frozen, canned and dried) into the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program providing an affordable option for increasing the variety available year-round for all and more market opportunities for producers. Priority must be given to fresh and locally grown product when available notwithstanding price;
- Ensuring adequate funding for the specialty crop industry with emphasis on fundamental research, marketing and promotions, and pest management programs;
- The USDA giving more consideration to specialty crop growers when considering planting history for various programs;
- Defining "specialty crops" as any fruit, vegetable, nut or non-program crop grown for consumption and sales; and
- USDA commodity purchases.

Nutrition

We support:

- Reform in the SNAP program that includes but is not limited to employment, wages, identification and legal status of the recipient; and
- The use of SNAP for U.S.-produced agricultural products when available.