The 2023 Farm Bill: 101

Becky Lare
Director of Government Relations
The Farm Bill: What is it?

- Comprehensive piece of federal legislation
- Authorizes most federal policies governing food & agriculture programs
- Reauthorized approximately every five years
- 2023 will be the 19th farm bill
Key Policy Areas in the Farm Bill

- Farm commodity supports
- Conservation programs
- Agricultural trade
- Nutrition assistance
- Farm loans and credit
- Rural economic development
- Research and extension programs
- Forestry stewardship
- Energy and biofuels
- Local foods, organics, and fruits and vegetables
- Crop insurance supports
- Socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers
FARM BILL PROJECTED FUNDING, IN BILLIONS 2019-2023

Nutrition: $325.8 billion (76%)
Crop Insurance: $38.5 billion (9%)
Commodities: $29.6 billion (7%)
Conservation: $29.6 billion (7%)
Other: $4.2 billion (1%)
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Tends to be more contentious
- Facing possible challenges
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Mandatory:
- Required funding levels to purchase food

Bonus:
- Section 42, at discretion of Sec. of Agriculture

Administrative:
- Dollars to offset storage & distribution costs
Committee Responsibilities

Conduct Hearings

Educate Personal Office Staff

Write the pieces of legislation within their jurisdiction
Two Kinds of Farm Bill Funding

**Mandatory**
- Provides funds as needed and are not subject to annual appropriations decisions by Congress
- Costs vary from year to year, depending on program-participation levels and economic conditions
- Examples include SNAP as well as most commodity and conservation programs

**Discretionary**
- May be funded up to the maximum level provided by legislation (the “authorization” level) but Congress may change the funding level each year for these programs (the “appropriation” level)
- Once program expenditures reach the level appropriated for that year, no additional funds can be spent unless Congress provides new appropriations
What Happens if a Farm Bill Doesn’t Pass?

• SNAP and Crop Insurance are funded via annual mandatory appropriations so they would continue

• All other programs would not continue, including other nutrition programs, ag support, and conservation programs

• Some Ag margin price supports would revert back to very old agriculture policy

Bottom line: Many stakeholders do NOT want the farm bill to fail to be renewed
Farm Bill Timeline & Potential Scenarios

- **118th Congress gavels in**
- **Fiscal Responsibility Act Passes**
- **2018 Farm Bill Expires 9/30/23**
- **Gov’t funding runs out on 9/30/23**
- **2nd Session of 118th Congress begins & election year**
- **CBO Updates the Farm Bill Baseline (Cost)**
- **Lame Duck Session after election**

**Timeline:**
- **Jan 2023**
- **June 2023**
- **Sept 2023**
- **Dec 2023**
- **Jan 2024**
- **Feb 2024**
- **Dec 2024**

- **5% chance of bill passage by Sept 30, 2023**
- **25% chance of bill passage by Dec 2023**
- **60% chance of bill passage by Feb 2024**
- **100% chance of bill passage by Dec 2024**
What’s Next? Time to Take Action!

- August Recess
- House & Senate Bills
- Petition
- Follow Our Social Media
- Read Food Bank Emails
Want to Learn More or Have Questions?

- NEW: Advocacy Newsletter
- NEW: Advocacy Office Hours (virtual)
  - Thursday, August 10
  - Wednesday, August 16
  - Tuesday, August 22

My Contact Information

Becky Lare
blare@foodbankcny.org
315-437-1899 x246