



WHAT IS THE FARM BILL?



The Farm Bill is an omnibus (a single document that only needs one vote by legislature, but that packages together several different measures into one), multiyear law that contains a range of agriculture and food programs. It's an opportunity for policymakers to address issues related to food and agriculture, and calls on them to oversee the implementation of the programs within the bill. The farm bill is renewed every five years, and 18 farm bills have been enacted since the 1930's.

The farm bill is important! Without it, some programs like nutrition assistance and farm commodity support programs would expire. And while some of the programs within the farm bill are permanent, reauthorization of the bill allows our elected leaders to make important policy changes or budget adjustments that are needed over time.

THE FARM BILL PRIMARILY:

- Supports farmers through federal crop insurance, trade/commodities policies, credit programs, research and rural development programs. Also supports programs for new, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers.
- Authorizes the funding of food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (since 1973). 76% of funding in the 2018 Farm Bill goes to the nutrition title.
- Addresses conservation through titles on climate change, forestry (since 1990), and renewable energy (since 2002). Also makes provisions for organic agriculture and restorative agricultural practices that conserve soil and arable land. 7% of funding in 2018.

