Farm Bill 101:
What the 2023 Farm Bill means for Minnesota

Cohosted by
the MinneAq Network
Partners to End Hunger
MN Food Justice Network and
Land Stewardship Project
Welcome!

Please introduce yourself in the chat

- Name
- Location
- Why are you interested in the Farm Bill?
Farm Bill Overview

Sarah Goldman, Organizer, Federal Policy, Policy Department, Land Stewardship Program (LSP)
FARM BILL OVERVIEW

Comprehensive bill passed every 5 years that covers federal farm, food, nutrition & rural economic programs

Farm Bill Titles:
Commodity Programs, Conservation, Trade, Nutrition, Credit, Rural Development, Research, Extension & Related Matters, Forestry, Energy, Horticulture, Crop Insurance, and Miscellaneous
Farm Bill funding: a lot of money!

2018 Farm Bill:
$867.2 billion over 10 years
Farm Bill opportunities

Land Stewardship Project has advocated for decades on Farm Bill issues, including:

• Crop insurance reform (payment limits, conservation-based risk mgmt)
• Development & expansion of Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program
• Fought to maintain Conservation Stewardship Program & increase funding for CSP & EQIP
• Climate, conservation, consolidation & land access for beginning farmers will be big issues in this Farm Bill cycle.
Farm Bill Timeline

• Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry and House Agriculture Committee begin to hold Farm Bill hearings (any day now!)
• Marker Bills introduced by legislative champions (now through 2022)
  • Ex: Agriculture Resilience Act, American Beef Labeling Act
• Congress begins process of drafting, amending, and voting on the Farm Bill (2022-23)
• Final Bill is sent to the White House for the President’s signature (hopefully 2023)
Farm Bill Process

Reauthorization

A Farm Bill is written, revised, and passed into Law. This happens approximately every 5 years.
MN Farm Bill Players

- Senator Tina Smith (Senate Ag. Committee, Subcommittee Chair on Rural Devt & Energy)
- Senator Amy Klobuchar (Senate Ag. Committee Member)
- Angie Craig (CD2) (Member of House Ag. Committee)
- Michelle Fischbach (CD7) (Member of House Ag. Committee)
- Brad Finstad (CD1) (Member of House Ag. Committee)
- Dean Phillips (CD3)
- Betty McCollum (CD4) (House Appropriations Committee)
- Ilhan Omar (CD5) (Progressive Caucus Member)
National young farmers coalition & LSP: Farm Bill Survey!
LSP 2023
FARM BILL PLATFORM
RELEASED AUGUST 2022
Consolidation

Percent of respondents who found maintaining access to slaughter facilities difficult

- 68% Currently Farming
- 50% Used to Farm
- 80% Would like to Farm
Climate and Conservation

- 90% have experienced more severe weather events
- 91% have experienced extreme temperature swings
- 84% believe these effects are due to climate change
21% of respondents have used a crop insurance program
Support for Young, Beginning, and BIPOC Farmers

32% of current farmers seeking loans have been denied a loan to finance their farm.

- 60% Because loan officer did not understand farming practices
- 21% Because loan officer thought they did not have required experience

BIPOC respondents were...

60% more likely to never have received a communication from USDA about programs.
Regional Food Systems

50% of respondents had trouble maintaining access to viable markets
9,000 people a day seeking food assistance.

Minnesota is a leader in agriculture. Yet every day in Minnesota, over 9,000 people visit a food shelf to get help meeting their daily food needs. Let’s work together to advance solutions that tackle hunger on a large scale. Become an advocate today.
Metro Food Justice Network
Climate and the Farm Bill
Which titles intersect with climate?

Title I: Commodities
Title II: Conservation
Title III: Trade
Title IV: Nutrition
Title V: Credit
Title VI: Rural Development
Title VII: Research, Extension, and Related Matters
Title VIII: Forestry
Title IX: Energy
Title X: Horticulture
Title XI: Crop Insurance
Title XII: Miscellaneous
Which titles intersect with climate?

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All of them!
Conservation Title

- Working lands conservation programs (Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP))
- Land retirement/easement programs (Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP))
What can Farm Bill conservation programs pay for?

- Cover crops
- Alternative manure management (dry vs wet – reduces methane emissions)
- Buffers, wetlands, silvopasture, agroforestry
- Crop rotations that reduce need for synthetic fertilizers
  - Organic-targeted practices and bundles
How much money came to Minnesota through conservation programs in 2022?

- **$24.5 million in CSP contracts**
  - 241 contracts
  - Average of ~$101,000 per contract

- **$30 million in EQIP**
  - 903 contracts
  - Average of ~$33,000 per contract
% of CSP Applications Awarded Contracts, 2022
How can I engage in the Farm Bill as a Minnesotan?

- Both Senator Klobuchar and Senator Smith are members of the Senate Ag Committee and on the Conservation Subcommittee!
- Representatives Brad Finstad (R-MN-01) and Angie Craig (D-MN-02) both serve on the House Ag Committee (Finstad serving as chair of Nutrition subcommittee)
- Reach out to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to serve on Minnesota’s State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
Resources to learn more

- **NSAC Farm Bill Landing Page**
- **FRAC Farm Bill Primer**
- **Congressional Research Service Farm Bill Primer**
- Land Stewardship Project's farm bill platform and landing page: [https://landstewardshipproject.org/farmbill2023/](https://landstewardshipproject.org/farmbill2023/)
- New/emerging farmers advocacy. [https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/digging-into-the-2023-farm-bill-senate-hearings-kick-off-the-long-road-to-the-2023-farm-bill/](https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/digging-into-the-2023-farm-bill-senate-hearings-kick-off-the-long-road-to-the-2023-farm-bill/)
- Resource on the hunger/ nutrition part of the Farm Bill: [https://frac.org/research/resource-library/farm-bill-primer](https://frac.org/research/resource-library/farm-bill-primer)
Questions & Comments