

What's next for the Farm Bill?

Tracking what the next Farm Bill will mean for MN

Presenters:

- Michael Happ, Program Associate for Climate and Rural Communities, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- Amanda Koehler, Policy Manager, Land Stewardship Project
- Erin Parker, Executive Director, Indigenous Food & Agriculture Initiative, University of Arkansas
- DeVon Nolen, Founder/Market Manager for The Peoples' Market MPLS
- Leah Gardner, Policy Director, Hunger Solutions
- Moderator: Erin McKee, Community Food Systems Program Director, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy




Welcome!

Please introduce yourself in the chat

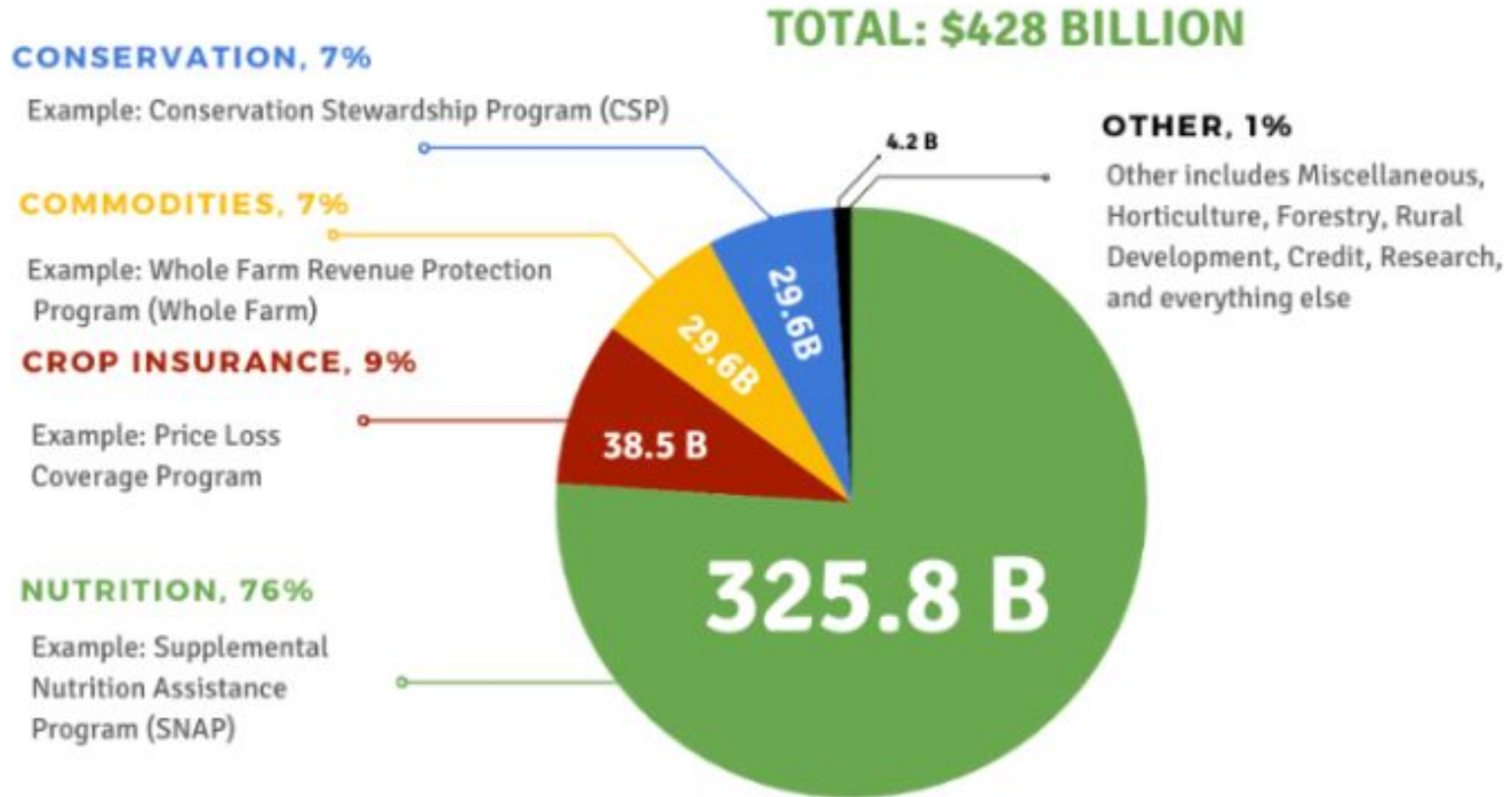
- Name
- Location
- Why are you interested in the Farm Bill?



A person wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and a light-colored hat is crouching in a field of green plants with small blue flowers. They appear to be working with a large green watermelon. The background is a bright, sunlit field.

Outlook for the Farm Bill in 2024

FARM BILL PROJECTED FUNDING, IN BILLIONS 2019-2023



USDA Conservation Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)



87.9%

The percentage of Minnesota CSP applicants who were denied contracts in 2023. **2,991 applicants were denied.** 413 were awarded (\$39.3m)

In 2022, 92% of applicants were denied.

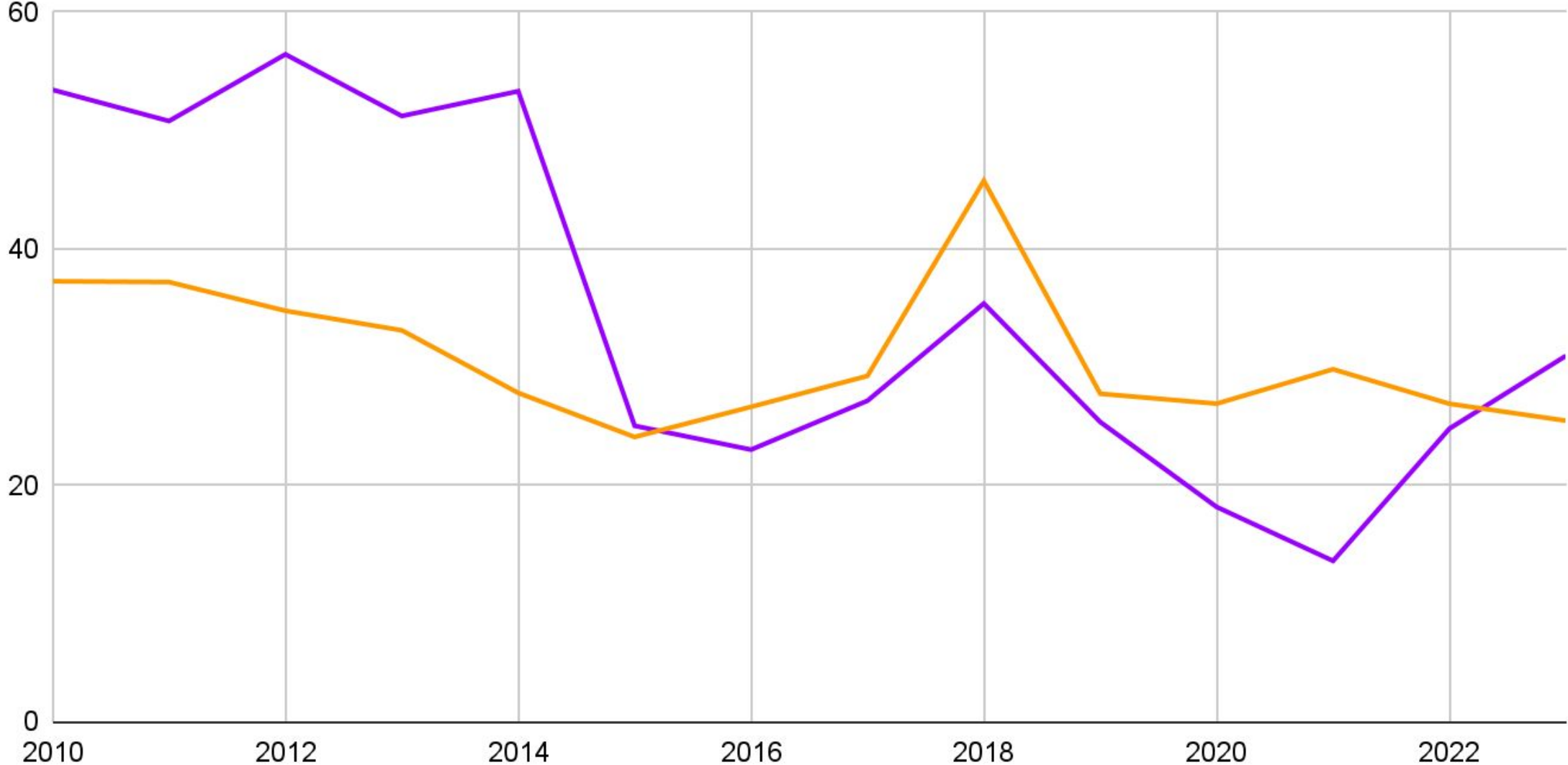
78%

The percentage of Minnesota EQIP applicants who were denied contracts in 2023. **3,320 applicants were denied.** 935 were awarded contracts (\$41.7m)

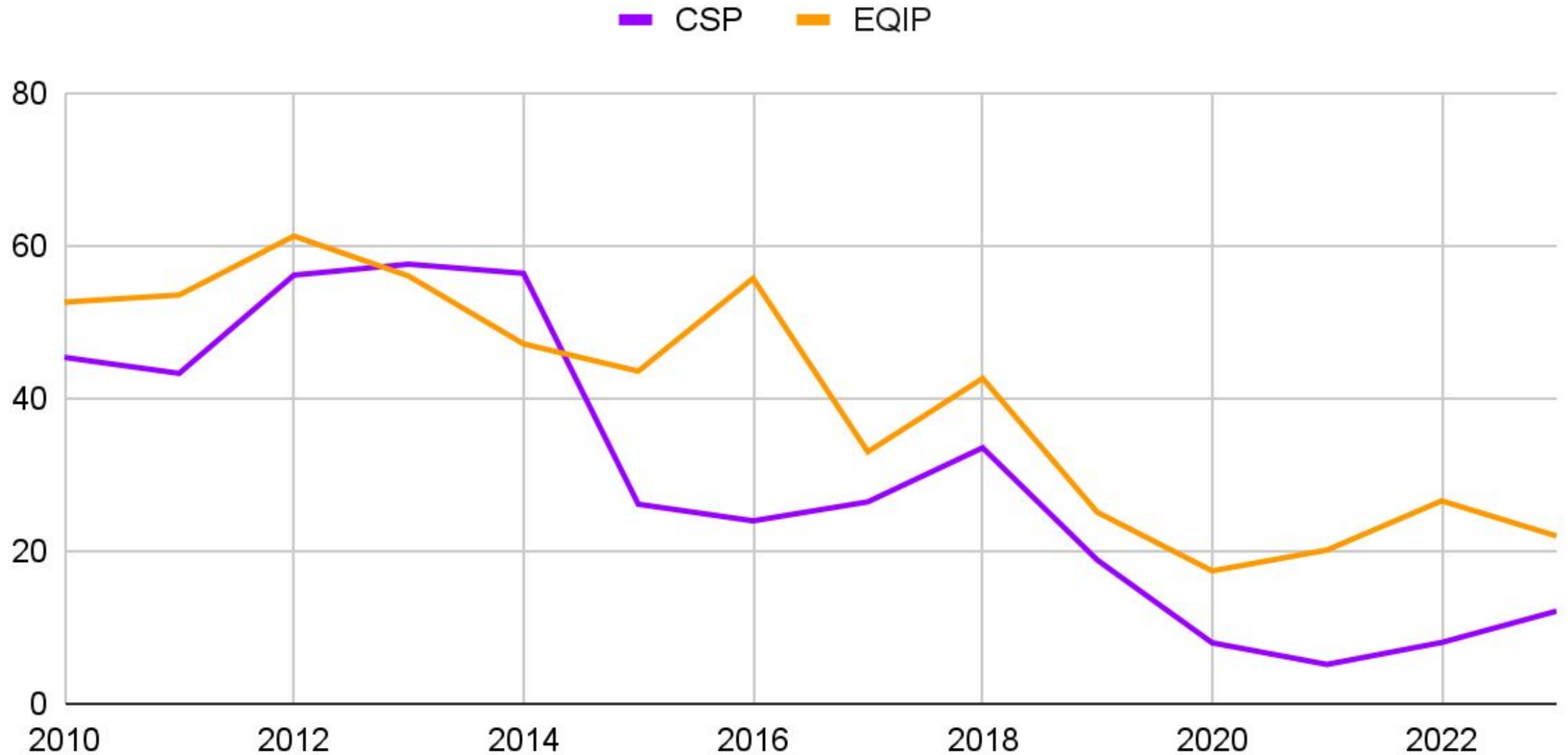
In 2022, 73.4% of applicants were denied.

% of EQIP and CSP Applicants Awarded Contracts, 2010-2023, USA

CSP EQIP



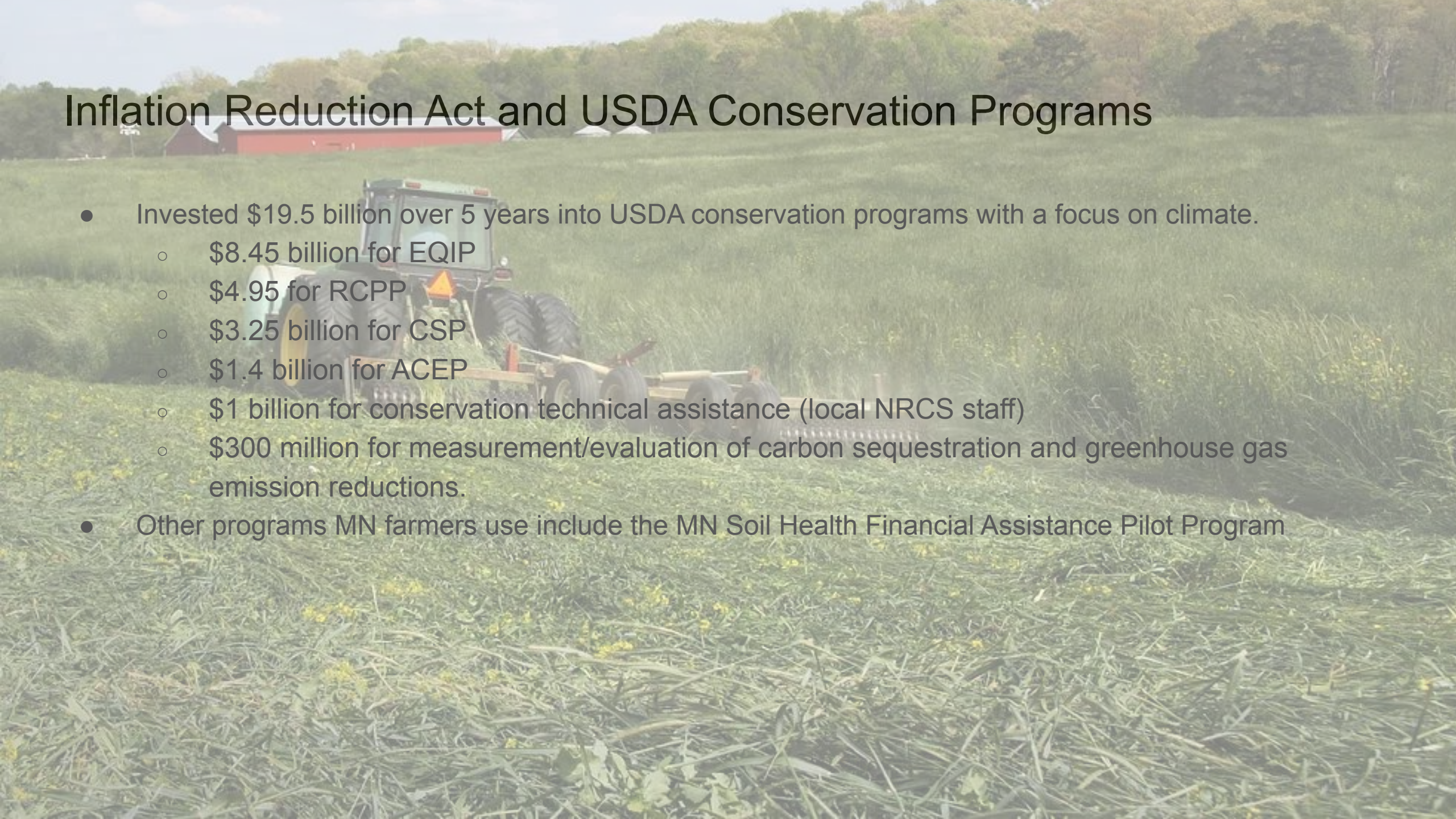
% of EQIP and CSP Applicants Awarded Contracts, MN, 2010-2023



Top 5 EQIP Practices in MN by dollar amount, 2023

Rank	Practice Name	Number of Contracts	Dollars Spent	Avg Contract Amount
1	Waste Facility Cover	40	\$5,362,011	\$134,050
2	Cover Crop	745	\$5,174,600	\$6,946
3	Waste Storage Facility	38	\$3,351,002	\$88,184
4	Nutrient Management	329	\$2,699,137	\$8,204
5	Pest Management	217	\$2,578,354	\$11,882

Inflation Reduction Act and USDA Conservation Programs



- Invested \$19.5 billion over 5 years into USDA conservation programs with a focus on climate.
 - \$8.45 billion for EQIP
 - \$4.95 for RCPP
 - \$3.25 billion for CSP
 - \$1.4 billion for ACEP
 - \$1 billion for conservation technical assistance (local NRCS staff)
 - \$300 million for measurement/evaluation of carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Other programs MN farmers use include the MN Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program

Opportunities for Engagement

- Farm Bill negotiations are happening, and most “marker bills” are introduced.
- Supporting the Agriculture Resilience Act
- Advocate for more data transparency.
- State Technical Advisory Committees (STACs) and county committees.
- Be ready to submit comments after the Farm Bill is passed!
- Appropriations each year.







LSP is a 42-year-old grassroots, non-profit organization made up of over 4,500 small- and mid-sized farmers, rural people, and urban and suburban allies based in the Upper Midwest organizing to build a just and sustainable farm & food system and healthy communities.

We advance our mission through:

- Programs: Farm Beginnings, Land Access & Land Legacy, Soil Health, Community-Based Food Systems
- Policy Organizing: Township & County, State (MN Legislature & Administration, AG), Federal (Congress & Administration)





**LAND
STEWARDSHIP
PROJECT**

LSP's FARM BILL PLATFORM



LSP 2023 FARM BILL PLATFORM

RELEASED AUGUST 2022



WFRP Improvement Act

The Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) Improvement Act would realize the potential of the WFRP program to provide financial resiliency and stability for producers historically left out of federal crop insurance programs, primarily diversified, beginning, small-scale, and mid-scale producers. This is especially important in the face of climate change.





LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

WFRP Improvement Act

Specifically, the bill would:

- Reduce paperwork burdens.
- Apply the streamlined application process introduced in the Micro Farm pilot to producers with at least \$1 million in gross revenue, to include all small and mid-sized farms as defined by USDA.
- Raise the annual 35% limit to historic gross revenue expansion to the lower of 100% or \$500,000, to allow beginning and scaling farmers to be insured at a level that keeps pace with rapid operational growth.
- Expand the diversification premium discount to apply to producers with at least 10 commodities, encouraging more diverse farmers to enroll in the program.
- Compensate crop insurance agents appropriately for Whole-Farm Revenue Protection, overcoming a key barrier for agents who are reluctant or refuse to sell WFRP policies
- And more.



LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

WFRP Improvement Act Status

- S. 2598
 - Authors: *Sen. Sherrod Brown (D – OH), Peter Welch (D – VT), John Fetterman (D – PA), **Tina Smith (D – MN)**, Cory Booker (D – NJ), Raphael Warnock (D – GA), Dick Durban (D – IL), Michael Bennet (D- CO).*
 - *We expect a version of the WFRP Improvement Act to be included in the Senate's draft Farm Bill.*





Helps producers start and grow viable farm businesses, retain access to land, and transition land by addressing the interrelated challenges of accessing:

- Land
- Capital
- Markets
- Technical Assistance

The bill would authorize and expand USDA's Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program with appropriations of \$100 million per year.





LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

LASO Act



- Specifically, the bill would make the temporary "Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program (LCM)" permanent and provide additional funding for the program.
 - The LCM Program was launched by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in August 2022.
 - The LCM Program is the only USDA program that is designed from the ground up to be a flexible source of support and investment that meets farmers where they are and offers a menu of eligible activities—in support of increasing land, capital, and market access—to eligible entities already immersed in the farming communities they serve.
- An investment of this kind in secure access to land in the next farm bill will generate immense returns for taxpayers— increasing food access, strengthening local supply chains, growing rural economies, and building climate resilience.



LASO Act Status

- S. 2340
 - Authors: **Tina Smith (D – MN)**, *John Fetterman (D – PA)*, *Peter Welch (D – VT)*, *Laphonza Butler (D – CA)*.
 - *We expect a version of the LASO Act to be included in the Senate's draft Farm Bill.*



- H.R. 3955
 - Authors: *Nikki Budzinski (D-IL-13)*, *Zachary Ninn (R-IA-3)*, *Joe Courtney (D-CT-2)*, *Abigail Davis Spanberger (D-VA-7)*, *Michael Lawler (R-NY-17)*, *Chellie Pingree (D-ME-1)*, *Elissa Slotkin (D-MI-7)*, *Gabe Vasquez (D-NM-2)*, *Earl Blumenaur (D-OR-3)*, *Brittany Pettersen (D-CO-7)*, *Josh Harder (D-CA-9)*, *Jahana Hayes (D-CT-5)*, *Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO-5)*, *Alma Adams (D-NC-12)*, *Joe Neguse (D-CO-2)*, *Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-5)*, **Angie Craig (D-MN-2)**, *Jill Tokuda (D-HI-2)*, *Eric Sorenson (D-IL-17)*, *Donald Davis (D-NC-1)*, *Jonathan Jackson (D-IL-1)*



- Head to our Farm Bill landing page to:
 - Join our Farm Bill Action Alert & Updates E-mail List
 - Find fact sheets on the WFRP Improvement Act and LASO Act
 - Find our full Farm Bill Platform
 - Become an LSP Member
 - & more!



Native Farm Bill Coalition

NFBC Farm Bill Update



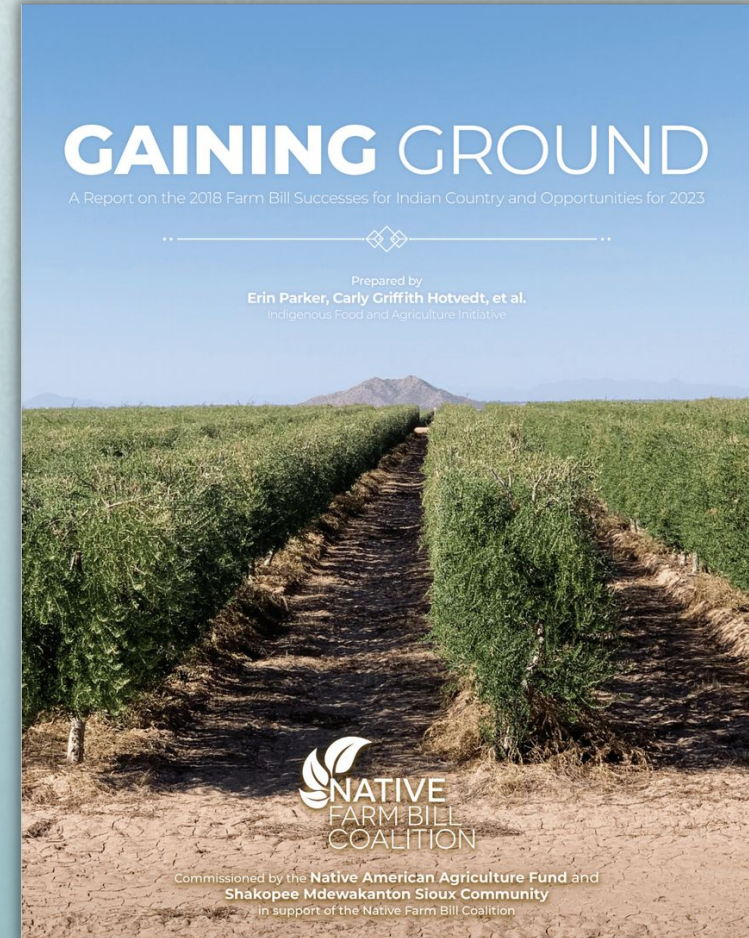
Erin Parker, IFAI

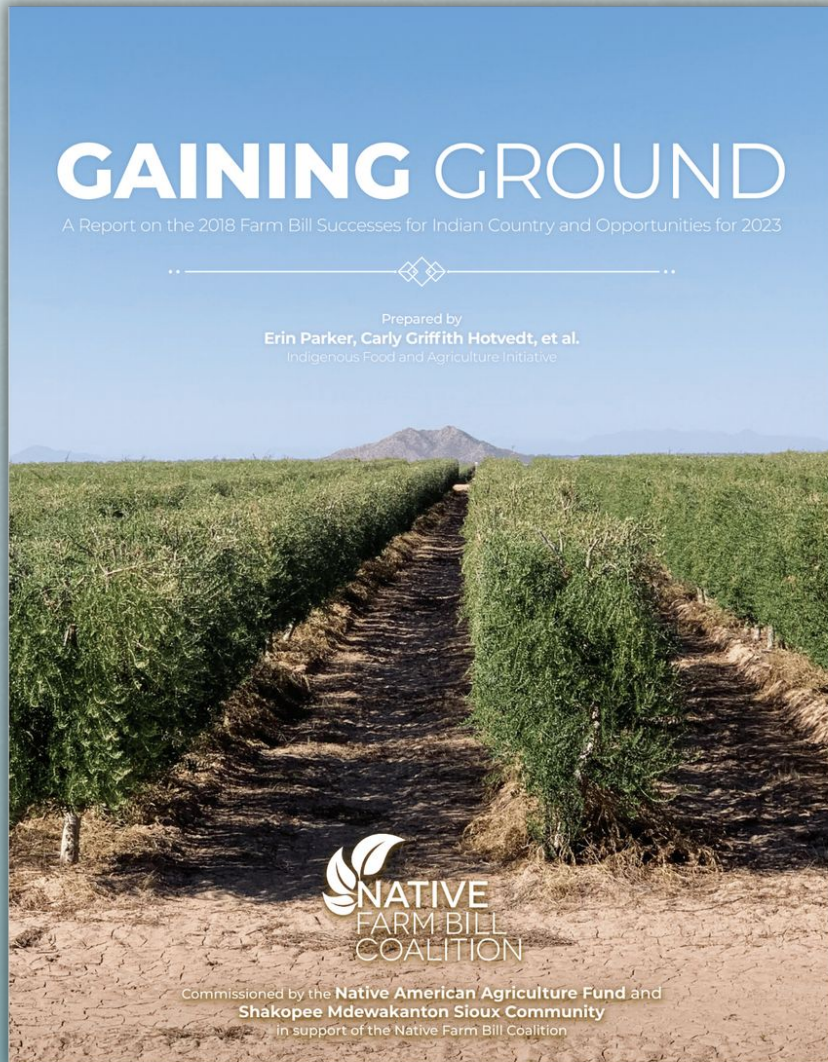




NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION







Contains more than 150 opportunities for Indian Country

in the next Farm Bill:

- Food Security
- Tribal Sovereignty
- Economic Development
- Natural Resource Stewardship
- Rural Infrastructure Development

INDIAN COUNTRY

FEDERAL FUNDING BY TOP SEVEN AGENCIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022



*SOURCE: OMB - Native American Crosscut -

[whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FY-2023-Native-American-Funding-Crosscut_FINAL.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FY-2023-Native-American-Funding-Crosscut_FINAL.pdf)

Graphic by the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative for the Native Farm Bill Coalition

LATEST UPDATE

- **Farm Bill Extension (HR 6363) became law on November 16**
[Public Law No: 118-22](#)
- **1 Year Extension of Farm Bill authority**
- **Staggered appropriations funding**
- **Prevents falling over commodity cliffs**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN COUNTRY– “638”

- **“638” or Tribal self-governance compacting/self-determination contracting is a powerful expression of Tribal sovereignty**
- **Enables Tribal Nations to utilize federal dollars to operate programs, services, activities, and/or functions of federal programming**
- **Has been around since 1970’s but applied to limited aspects of USDA programming for the first time in 2018-- 2018 Farm Bill created 2 638 pilots**

638 Marker Bills

- Both the **FDPIR Tribal Food Sovereignty Act of 2023** (Sens. Tina Smith—MN and John Hoeven—ND | S. 2489) and the **ARCTIC Act** (Sen. Lisa Murkowski—AK | S.2354) would make the FDPIR demonstration program authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill permanent.
- The **Tribal Food Sovereignty Act** (Sens. Tina Smith—MN and Mike Rounds—SD-- | S.2757; Rep. Joe Neguse—CA) expands 638 to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- The **PRIME for Meat Processing Act** (Sens. Markwayne Mullin—OK and Tina Smith—MN) and the **ARCTIC Act** (Sen. Lisa Murkowski-- AK) expands 638 to Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS) to allow Tribal governments to inspect beef, bison, chicken, fish, seafood, and other products put into their food programs.

Additional Marker Bills

addressing Indian Country ag:

- **Allow for the Dual Use of SNAP & FDPIR** : The **Tribal Access to Nutrition Assistance Act** (Sens. Patty Murray—WA and Catherine Cortez-Masto—NM) removes the statutory prohibition preventing individuals who qualify for both FDPIR and SNAP from using both in the same month.
- **Increase the Flexibility for FDPIR** The **Tribal Nutrition Flexibility Act of 2023** (Sen. Ben Ray-Lujan—NM) authorizes a series of waivers for Tribes in operating FDPIR.
- The **Tribal Nutrition Program Administration Act of 2023** (Sen. Ben Ray Lujan—NM) eliminates the FDPIR matching requirement. Currently, Tribes must provide an 80% match, which can be a barrier to operating the program.



Thank you!

www.nativefarmbill.com

The Road to A JUST Farm Bill - Minnesota Update

J. DeVon Nolen
Policy in Action



COLORED FARMERS' ALLIANCE

In the 1880s black farmers in the South faced many economic problems. The Southern Farmers' Alliance barred blacks from membership, so a small group of black farmers organized the Colored Farmers' National Alliance and Cooperative Union. The group was formed in Houston County, Texas on December 11th 1886. Membership was strong and in 1890 the group merged with the National Colored Alliance and claimed to have 1.2 million members. (Holmes)



(itsoureconomy.us)

January 11, 2024

Introduction: J. DeVon Nolen

- Activator
- Activist
- Urban Grower
- Farmers Market Manager
- Developer (Economic & Community)

Policy

[Good Food For All](#) (GFFA) - Transformational Farm Bill

Homegrown Minneapolis Food Policy Council - [Minneapolis Food Vision](#)

[Metro Food Justice Network](#) - Twin Cities

[Northside Fresh Coalition](#) - Grassroots



Good Food For All (GFFA) Coalition

in conjunction with the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)

Serving on Executive Steering Committee - Wande (Atlanta) & Liz (Massachusetts)

Dozens of grassroots and policy organizations from more than 20 states take a trip to Capitol Hill and advocate for a transformational food and farm bill—one that centers equity and racial justice to create a more healthy and sustainable food system by taking back control from the powerful corporations that have hijacked it.

Good Food For All



TRANSFORMATIONAL FARM BILL CAMPAIGN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 13, 2022

Press Contact: Paris Kissel

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More Than 150 Organizations Across Sectors Call on President Biden to Demand A Transformative Farm Bill

Advocates join together to lay out core values that must be reflected in the upcoming legisl.

Washington, D.C. – Today, more than 150 organizations representing a range of sectors and sharing an interest in a stronger, more equitable farm and food system joined together to endorse President Biden as an ally and call on him to demand that the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill reflect his strong values. In a letter to the president, they ask him to weigh in on the next Farm Bill demand that Congress build even further on the administration's actions to date to reduce economic inequality; bridge the nation's racial divides; end hunger; confront the climate crisis; improve nutrition and food safety; and protect and support farmers, workers, and communities.

Specifically, advocates call for the next Farm Bill to:

- **Center Racial Justice** – The next Farm Bill must be a racial justice bill. Equity and justice must be at the center of every facet of the next Farm Bill if we hope to repair historical and ongoing discrimination against farmers and communities of color, Tribal Nations, and food and farm workers and eliminate inequities throughout the food and farm economy.
- **End Hunger** – The next Farm Bill must protect and strengthen food assistance programs to ensure sufficient resources and access to a nutritious diet for all people who struggle against hunger and food insecurity as a result of wealth and income inequities often driven by systemic racism.
- **Meet the Climate Crisis Head On** – The next Farm Bill must be a climate bill. It must invest in research, technical assistance and financial incentives to enable farmers and ranchers to reduce emissions and to implement farming practices and labor policies that make their farms and workers better able to withstand extreme weather.
- **Increase Access to Healthy Food** – The next Farm Bill must tackle the nutrition crisis by improving nutrition security, which the Biden administration has defined as “consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being.” for all.
- **Ensure Safety and Dignity for Food and Farm Workers** – The next Farm Bill must invest substantially in the people who plant, harvest, process, transport, sell and serve our food, ensuring safety and a living wage, along with access to health care, clean housing, and the right to organize and join a union.
- **Protect Farmers and Consumers** – The next Farm Bill must build on administration efforts to promote competition in the food and agriculture sectors.
- **Ensure the Safety of Our Food Supply** – The Farm Bill must do more to address pathogens that originate on factory farms and to make the U.S. food supply safe for everyone.

Key Demands for future Farm Bill

- **Build a climate-resilient food and farm system.**
- **Bolster economic opportunities for farmers, particularly BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other people of color) farmers.**
- **Ensure the safety and dignity of food and farm workers.**
- **Increase access to nutritious food for everyone.**

<https://blog.ucsusa.org/melissa-kaplan/what-should-the-2023-food-and-farm-bill-include/>

Marker Bills

shorter pieces of legislation known as marker bills. These marker bills are written prior to the food and farm bill itself, and can serve as a blueprint for text to be included in the larger legislation when it's drafted. Several important marker bills have already been introduced by food security champions in Congress and will hopefully be included in the food and farm bill.

Strategy

Marker bills UCS has endorsed so far:

- *Agriculture Resilience Act (ARA)*
- *Justice for Black Farmers Act (JFBFA)*
- *Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act (PAMWA)*
- *Food and Farm Act*
- *Strengthening Local Processing Act*
- *Farm System Reform Act*
- *Industrial Agriculture Accountability Act*
- *Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act*
- *COST of Relocations Act*

Black-Centered - NATIONAL BLACK FOOD & JUSTICE ALLIANCE

NBFJA is a coalition of Black-led organizations, developing Black leadership, supporting Black communities, organizing Black self-determination, and building institutions for Black food sovereignty & liberation.

On November 19th, U.S. Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) announced landmark legislation aimed at addressing and correcting historic discrimination within the U.S. Department of Agriculture in federal farm assistance and lending that has caused Black farmers to lose millions of acres of farmland and robbed Black farmers and their families of hundreds of billions of dollars of inter-generational wealth.

The Justice for Black Farmers Act will enact policies to end discrimination within the USDA, protect remaining Black farmers from losing their land, provide land grants to create a new generation of Black farmers and restore the land base that has been lost, and implement systemic reforms to help family farmers across the United States.

<https://blackfoodjustice.org/supportaction>



Dr. Jaz - Dr. Jasmine R. Jackson

Co-Executive Director

Translating the Farm Bill

Those most heavily impacted - oppression breeds lack - (capacity, interest, understanding the impact)

Power = Organized People + Organized Money

Define it! - Destiny and Self-Reliance

Knowing WHAT to do - Become an Expert

Building a Base Ready for ACTION!

The POWER lies with the PEOPLE!

Respond vs React - Clear demands

Think Global, Act Local - the power of local government and coalitions

Authentic public-private partnership

Time! Time! Time!



Thank You!

J. DeVon Nolen

The Peoples' Market MPLS

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Questions & Comments

