2023 FARM BILL 101: All Aboard!

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NSAC: a grassroots alliance of 130+ member organizations (and hundreds more partners and allies) from around the country working together to improve federal food & farm policy for over 30 years!

*CFSA is a member – along with many other awesome organizations from the Carolinas.*
## How NSAC Works

<table>
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<th><strong>FARMERS &amp; STAKEHOLDERS</strong></th>
<th><strong>MEMBER GROUPS</strong></th>
<th><strong>NSAC WASHINGTON</strong></th>
<th><strong>CONGRESS &amp; AGENCIES</strong></th>
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<td>Share their experiences, ideas, challenges related to federal policy, programs, rules with local groups</td>
<td>Collect input from farmers &amp; stakeholders as well as their own experiences, bring asks to NSAC</td>
<td>Helps members identify priority sustainable food &amp; farm policy issues nationwide, set campaign strategies, campaign to win!</td>
<td>NSAC brings – directly and thru members – priority asks to Congress and agencies like USDA to improve federal food &amp; farm policy</td>
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Today’s Session

- Brief farm bill history
- Farm bill structure & programs, including examples from the Carolinas
- The 2023 Farm Bill timeline & process – and why matters!
- How your voice matters for the 2023 Farm Bill
Farm bill history

• Ensure the food supply
• Sustain natural resources

The modern farm bill

• Commodity programs
• Nutrition programs
• Conservation programs
• …Much more

What has never been properly addressed

• Structural racism & racial equity
Farm Bill Basics - History

2018 Farm Bill – Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018
2014 Farm Bill – Agricultural Act of 2014
2008 Farm Bill – Food, Conservation, and Energy Act
2002 Farm Bill – Farm Security and Rural Investment Act
1996 Farm Bill – Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act
1990 Farm Bill – Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act
1981 Farm Bill – Agriculture and Food Act
1977 Farm Bill – Food and Agriculture Act
1973 Farm Bill – Agricultural and Consumer Protection Act
1970 Farm Bill – Agricultural Act of 1970
1965 Farm Bill – Food and Agricultural Act of 1965
1956 Farm Bill – Agriculture Act of 1956
1954 Farm Bill – Agricultural Act of 1954
1949 Farm Bill – Agricultural Act of 1949
1948 Farm Bill – Agricultural Act of 1948
1938 Farm Bill – Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938
1933 Farm Bill – Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933
WHAT IS THE FARM BILL?

• Developed roughly every 5 years
• Spends over $400 billion
• Shapes what we eat, what farmers grow, who can access land and capital, health of our natural resources
• Contains policies, programs, and funding – everything from rules around who is eligible for a farm loan to funding for food assistance for low-income families.
• Reflects deep-seated structural inequities – and presents an opportunity to drive change
Language that authorizes programs

- What it does
- How long it will last
- How it will be funded
  - Mandatory or discretionary
- Who can access it
  - Eligibility criteria
  - Priorities for certain farmers
- The amount or funding or resources available
Farm Bill Basics - Contents

- Title I, Commodity Programs
- 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
What’s IN

Commodity Programs
Crop Insurance
Conservation
Agriculture Credit
Forestry programs
Anti-hunger/nutrition assistance
Rural development
Ag research
Trade

What’s OUT

Farm/food worker rights & protections
Public land grazing rights
Irrigation water rights
FDA food safety
Renewable fuels standard
Tax issues
School meals & WIC
GMO labeling
What’s it Mean to be “IN” the Farm Bill?

For included programs, the Farm Bill details things like:

- Overall program ‘authorization’
- Definitions
- Eligibility
- Priorities
- And more…

The implementation process fleshes out specifics on what Congress outlines broadly.
What’s it Mean to be “IN” the Farm Bill?

What about funding?
- Mandatory vs Discretionary
- Authorized vs Appropriated vs Entitlements

Example: Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE)
Farm Bill Basics - Cost

- Conservation, 7%
  Example: Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Commodities, 7%
  Example: Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program (Whole Farm)

- Crop Insurance, 9%
  Example: Price Loss Coverage Program

- Nutrition, 76%
  Example: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Total: $428 Billion

Other, 1%
Other includes Miscellaneous, Horticulture, Forestry, Rural Development, Credit, Research, and everything else

325.8 B
Who Writes the Farm Bill?

- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- House Agriculture Committee

With input from…

- Members of Congress
- Farm, food, and rural advocacy organizations
- Voters
- You!
What are Marker Bills?

At their most basic they:

- Introduce new ideas, levels of funding, and issues
- Identify new champions within Congress
- Allow for a lot of community input prior to the official Farm Bill Process

Some NSAC supported marker bills:

- Agricultural Resilience Act
- Strengthening Local Processing Act
Farm Bill Basics - Process

Each Agriculture Committee drafts, amends, and votes on its own version of the bill.

Each full chamber ("the floor") debates, amends, and votes on the bill from its respective committee.

Leaders from the House and Senate, including committee chairs, form a conference committee to combine the bills.

The full chambers ("the floor") vote on the combined final bill.

The final bill is sent to the White House for the President’s signature.
How Can I Be Heard?

This is the time to:

- LEARN
- LISTEN
- ADD YOUR VOICE!
Influencing the 2023 Farm Bill

- **LEARN:** Who represents you?
  - 2 Senators, 1 Representative: https://www.govtrack.us
  - Good news sources: FERN’s Ag Insider, Civil Eats, Morning Ag Clips, NSAC’s Weekly Roundup

- **LISTEN:** What are your Members of Congress (MoCs) supporting /opposing?
  - Sign up for their email newsletter
  - Follow on Facebook and/or Twitter!
  - See recently sponsored bills (by issue area), voting record, committee lists, much more: https://www.govtrack.us
Adding Your Voice!

- **SPEAK up:** Lend your voice to campaigns that are working to garner support for important 2023 Farm Bill changes
- **SHARE perspective:** Provide your perspective during hearings, listening sessions, or public comment periods – CFSA is your partner here too!
  - Examples that are especially helpful:
    - *Barriers*
    - *Success stories*
    - *Ideas for improvement*
- **CENTER equity:** Keep racial equity - in terms of access, opportunities, and outcomes – top of mind
• **SHAKE hands:** Introduce yourself to field office staff and MoCs, via calls or in person events

• **SEND invites:** Invite MoCs (and their staffers!) to your events at farmers markets, food hubs, new facility openings, workshops, or celebrations

• **SHARE news:** Supporting work in a particular district? Share the news with your MoCs’ field team!

• **SHOW up:** Attend Town Halls, listening sessions, and in-district and in-DC meetings and convenings.
Let’s Connect!

Website: sustainableagriculture.net
Twitter: @sustainableag
Facebook: on.fb.me/sustainableag
Emails: sustainableagriculture.net/subscribe/