

WE NEED A FARM BILL.

GOOD FOOD. MORE JOBS. CONSERVATION. THRIVING COMMUNITIES.
THESE ARE ALL THINGS WE CAN GET BEHIND.

As the chief agriculture officials in their states, members of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) are keenly aware of the changing dynamics, increasing challenges, and new opportunities in agricultural production across the country and have a deep appreciation for the important contribution agriculture makes to our nation's security and economy.

THE FARM BILL IMPACTS EVERYONE.

Agricultural producers, the rural economy, and communities of every size rely upon a forward looking, and fully funded Farm Bill. NASDA calls for enhanced investment in American agriculture that provides producers the tools they need to succeed. The Farm Bill is also vital to providing consumers access to the safest, highest quality and affordable food supply, which is essential for our nation's economy and security.

PRIORITIES

- Conservation
- Trade Promotion
- Specialty Crops
- Invasive Species
- Animal Diseases
- Research
- Food Safety

OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT FARM BILL:




TRADE PROMOTION

The Market Access Program (MAP) promotes American-grown and produced food and ag products that are in competition with heavily subsidized foreign products. For every \$1 invested in export market development programs, \$24 is returned in export revenue. This means significant positive effects for farmers & ranchers like increased income and more American jobs in the farm and food sector. Funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) should be increased from \$200M to \$400M to better promote America's food and ag products in demand across the globe.

CONSERVATION

Conservation programs provide financial and technical assistance needed to conserve our nation's natural resources and meet increasing regulatory demands. The next Farm Bill must make substantial investments in voluntary locally-driven, flexible, and efficient conservation programs. Additional investments are needed to continue targeted conservation, address water quality challenges and face regulatory pressures.



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Over for more details. 



MORE ON OUR PRIORITIES

SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS

The Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) Program provides important tools to enhance specialty crop production, while also advancing foods with critical health benefits to the American people. To the extent additional funding is available, funding for the SCBG Program should be increased and Congress should ensure a flexible, locally responsive, and state-led program.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive plants and pests are an often catastrophic threat to farmers and ranchers. To address this increasing threat, bold action is required. Building on the successes of the invasive species programs created by the 2014 Farm Bill, Congress should bring additional tools to bear on this serious economic threat. Funding for the highly successful "Plant Pest and Disease Management & Disaster Prevention" and the "National Clean Plant Network" should be increased to in order to provide additional tools for domestic invasive species issues. Enhanced funding and coordination of invasive species under the direction of the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy and involving other departments and agencies of the federal and state governments should be considered to strengthen programs and maximize the value of the federal funding.

ANIMAL DISEASES

A proactive, multi-faceted animal disease program is needed to safeguard animal agriculture, promote sustainable economic development and prevent catastrophic events that could threaten our nation's food supply. Expanding on the authorization for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, and modeled after the aforementioned invasive species programs, this program will bring together the federal government with states, industry, universities, and other agricultural stakeholders to reduce the impact of high-consequence animal diseases, provide rapid detection and response capabilities, develop disease prevention and mitigation technologies, support a vaccine bank infrastructure, prevent the entrance and spread of foreign animal diseases into the U.S., and identify & support critical research needs.

RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS

Robust funding for agricultural research and extension programs, and infrastructure, particularly within our nation's many outstanding agricultural colleges and universities, is vital to ensuring producers remain competitive domestically and globally. The Farm Bill must also ensure adequate funding for research focusing on the safety and security of the food system and improving and protecting our natural resources.

FOOD SAFETY

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is a landmark bill which has overhauled American food safety regulation from response-driven to preventive and farm-focused. Congress should address the variety of implementation challenges with the final FSMA rules. The next Farm Bill should provide resources to assist producers in complying with FSMA, especially via low-cost loans for infrastructure upgrades.