

FARM BILL 101



What is the Farm Bill?

The Farm Bill is a significant piece of legislation passed by the United States Congress roughly every five years. Congress has been actively working on the bill, and there are significant opportunities to expand programs, especially to underrepresented farmers.

What does it cover?

The Farm Bill includes everything but the kitchen sink! In fact, you could more accurately refer to it as the Food & Farm Bill. It addresses various aspects of agriculture, food, nutrition, and rural development, including:

- Programs to address hunger and food insecurity (e.g., SNAP benefits and nutrition training)
- Farm subsidies
- Conservation programs
- Crop insurance
- Research and extension services
- Investment in rural communities (e.g., jobs, housing, and infrastructure)
- Agricultural trade issues
- Renewable energy programs

Where does Farm Bill spending go?



Can the Farm Bill help with climate change?

Yes! The Farm Bill is the biggest investment the U.S. government makes in land conservation, a key component of mitigating climate change. The bill also provides programs to encourage farmers to support renewable energy initiatives, like using solar power on their farms.

Why is this year particularly important?

Most farm subsidies benefit the largest 10% of farms. But small farms make up the vast majority of farms in the U.S. The average farm size in the Hudson Valley is just 130 acres — far below the national average of 445 acres. Our farms deserve the same programs and protections available to larger farms, and we're working alongside others to make that happen.

Why should the Farm Bill matter to me?

Simply put, if you like to eat safe, healthy food, then we need good agricultural policies to ensure that farms and farm workers can continue to grow and produce food for our dinner tables. The Farm Bill covers programs that touch many aspects of life, including nutrition education, school food programs, cooperative extension services, food safety programs, environmental protection, and even funding for public buildings in rural towns. The Farm Bill affects us all, so speak up and let your elected officials know that supporting local farms and food is important to you!



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