

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS  
FAMILY FARMING AND THE 2024 FARM BILL  
DECEMBER 2023

The 2018 Farm Bill was extended through September 2024. While that extension provides certainty for the next year, farmers and ranchers need long-term certainty. Current reliance on ad hoc programs is not a sustainable solution. We urge Congress to prioritize completion of the farm bill in the next year. The 2024 Farm Bill should provide farmers and ranchers with a strong, stable safety net, adequate protection from natural disasters, and farmer-friendly conservation resources.

NDFU believes Congress's self-imposed requirement that all farm bills are budget neutral is harmful to the policymaking process. As the last five years have demonstrated, underfunded farm bill programs ultimately lead to additional spending through ad hoc programs. We urge Congress to improve farm bill programs based on need and provide the necessary funding to support those programs.

Specifically, NDFU encourages Congress to make the following improvements in the next farm bill:

- Increase Price Loss Coverage reference prices to reflect increases in production costs;
- Establish a "dual enrollment option" that allows farmers to receive the higher of the calculated Agricultural Risk Coverage and PLC payment;
- Close farm program eligibility loopholes to ensure support is directed to family farmers and ranchers;
- Improve the affordability of higher levels of crop insurance coverage and supplemental coverage options;
- Strengthen the Livestock Forage Program and Livestock Indemnity Program to ensure payments accurately reflect forage and livestock losses;
- Create voluntary, not mandatory, options that support farmers and ranchers who adopt conservation practices;
- Increase flexibility for existing conservation programs and provide sufficient funding to meet demand;
- Increase payments for conservation practices that deliver the greatest environmental benefits; and
- Fund public research on the costs and benefits of climate-smart agriculture practices.