



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TITLE I: COMMODITIES

Title I: Commodities. Agricultural producers face significant income volatility from unpredictable commodity prices, weather disasters, and market disruptions. Title I provides a safety net through programs that stabilize farm revenue when prices fall or disasters strike, including price and revenue support for major crops (ARC/PLC), marketing loans, and specialized programs for sugar, dairy, and disaster assistance. These programs are critical in helping producers manage risk and maintain operations through economic downturns.

Title I of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 **builds on wins already included in last summer's Working Families Tax Cuts (H.R. 1)**: higher reference prices, additional base acres, and flexibility for producers in structuring their businesses.

Enhances standing disaster programs and expands eligibility for assistance.

- Builds on the important work done to the Tree Assistance program (TAP) in H.R. 1, by adopting several remaining provisions from [H.R. 4739](#) (118th Congress) such as:
 - Expanding the definition of an “eligible orchardist” to include a person who grows trees for commercial purposes on a biannual basis.
 - Including plant pests in the definition of “natural disaster.”
 - Streamlines the program by requiring the secretary to act on an application within 120 days.
 - Providing impacted producers with an upfront payment to kickstart replanting, as seen in [H.R. 6436](#) (119th Congress).
- Directs the Secretary to establish a framework for delivering future assistance to specialty crops so disaster response can be consistent across Administrations.
- Creates standing authority to deliver ad hoc disaster assistance via block grants to States. Inspired by [H.R. 662](#) (118th Congress).

Further refines the important work in H.R. 1 to support dairy risk management tools.

- As seen in [H.R. 295](#) (119th Congress), directs reporting on dairy production expenses to ensure that producer costs are accurately reflected in the data.
- Provides certainty for producers and cooperatives by allowing the Dairy Forward Pricing Program to continue in perpetuity.

Expands access to low-cost financing for agricultural storage infrastructure.

- Now includes propane that is primarily used for agricultural production as drying and handling equipment for eligibility in the storage facility loan program, as seen in [H.R. 1302](#) (119th Congress).

Protects producers from disruptions caused by Washington dysfunction.

Ensures producers are able to utilize the Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) program in the event there is a lapse in appropriations.



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TITLE II: CONSERVATION

Title II: Conservation. Provides farmers, ranchers, and growers with financial and technical assistance to address a variety of natural resource concerns such as soil health and erosion, water quality and quantity, and wildlife habitat. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 continues to support our proven system of voluntary, incentive-based, and locally led conservation through various improvements. The title builds on the historic investments made into existing conservation programs through the Working Families Tax Cuts (H.R. 1).

Protects and enhances working lands conservation programs to ensure they remain producer-first, flexible, and locally led.

- Enhances EQIP by incorporating proven technologies and innovative programs.
 - Incorporates precision agriculture into EQIP, based on provisions from [H.R. 6143](#), by adding precision agriculture technologies to the 90% payment, water conservation and irrigation efficiency practices, incentive contracts, and conservation innovation grants.
 - Maintains the minimum livestock allocation at 50% and maintains the wildlife habitat minimum allocation at 10%.
 - Includes the Southern Border Initiative as seen in [H.R. 389](#).
- Improves CSP and provides additional soil health tools.
 - Adds the planning, adoption, and acquisition of precision agriculture practices and technologies as eligible for CSP payments, as seen in [H.R. 6143](#).
 - Authorizes a matching grant program for States and eligible Indian Tribes to improve soil health on agricultural lands through the implementation of State and Tribal soil health programs, as inspired by [H.R. 4163](#) (118th Congress) and [H.R. 3077](#).
 - Increases the CSP minimum payment to \$4,000.

Reauthorizes CRP and maintains current acreage cap.

- Reauthorizes CRP through Fiscal Year 2031.
- Maintains the current program cap at 27 million acres for five years.

Includes commonsense easement reforms through a variety of ACEP improvements.

- Agricultural Land Easement Program (ALE):
 - Increases the federal cost-share from 50% to 65%.

- Clarifies the certification process for experienced entities to participate in the program, which will help reduce administrative burdens, provide flexibility, and encourage participation.
- To facilitate states in reconciling easement deed terms with the minimum terms of an easement supported by ACEP, the bill allows for eligible entities to accept a lower cost-share option while setting the terms and conditions of the easement deed (without a federal contingent right of enforcement), if the terms remain consistent with the program.
- Removes the definition of "buy-protect-sell" from statute.
- Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE):
 - Elevates stewardship responsibilities to mirror easement acquisition and restoration by creating a separate section for stewardship actions under wetland reserve easements.
 - Provides for an evaluation of stewardship need.
 - Clarifies that contracts or agreements may be entered into to carry out necessary restoration, enhancement, or maintenance, repair, assessment or monitoring of a wetland reserve easement.
- Program Administration:
 - Includes improved and clear authorities for easement modifications and exchanges if consistent with the terms of the easement and the program goals.

Creates the Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP).

- Repeals the Healthy Forests Reserve Program and creates FCEP.
- Based on [H.R. 3476](#), the program will offer a voluntary entity-held easement option for working forest land.

Streamlines and improves RCPP administration and implementation.

- Links RCPP back to the covered programs with flexibility to alter program rules as was provided in the 2014 version of RCPP.
- Requires USDA to streamline RCPP partnership agreements and sets various timelines for administrative actions and decisions, including 180 days for agreement approvals and 30 days for payments to partners.
- Includes [H.R. 4134](#) to amend the purposes of RCPP to expand flood resiliency and prevent and mitigate the impacts of flooding and drought.
- Allows for up to 10% of the funds for an RCPP partnership agreement to reimburse the partner for administrative expenses related to the project.
- Includes the restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife mitigation corridors as critical conservation areas, as inspired by provisions in [H.R. 2235](#).

Updates critical watershed programs and responds to watershed resource needs.

- Improves P.L. 566 and requires ongoing streamlining and data transparency.

- Authorizes funding for remedial actions which address the deterioration of a component of a structure at an abnormal rate, the planned service exceeding the life of a component, or structural damage caused by a storm or weather event.
 - Increases the Federal cost-share for Dam Rehab from 65% to 90%.
- Updates the Emergency Watershed Program by authorizing financial and technical assistance for restoring and maintaining vegetative cover and hydrological restoration measures.
- Establishes a national agriculture flood vulnerability study as seen in [H.R. 1858](#).

Emphasizes science, technology, and innovation through the conservation title.

- Includes [H.R. 6877](#) (118th Congress), which requires USDA to create a process for public participation in updating conservation practice standards and make more frequent updates, beginning with one year after enactment and every subsequent five years.
- Creates an Office of Innovation within the Office of the Secretary, which will be staffed by existing employees and funded through annual appropriations, as seen in [H.R. 6867](#) (118th Congress).
- The bill also defines both “precision agriculture” and “precision agriculture technology” and incorporates both into EQIP and CSP.

Improves program implementation across the conservation title.

- Includes provisions from [H.R. 575](#) to streamline the Technical Service Provider (TSP) program.
 - Requires USDA to establish clear approval processes and timelines, including a process to approve a non-federal entity to become a certifier and to approve the application within 60 days upon receipt.
 - Establishes a streamlined process for approved certifiers to certify a third-party provider and requires a timely decision for third-party provider applications.
 - Requires a review of the TSP certification process and requires USDA to adjust accordingly.
- Maintains the NRCS experienced services program.
- Provides direct hire authority for NRCS.
- Includes provisions from [H.R. 1011](#) to improve the Emergency Conservation Program by authorizing advance payments of up to 75% of the cost of the emergency measures.



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TITLE III: TRADE

Title III: Trade. Agriculture is the backbone to most global economies, and robust promotion programs create market access while also protecting our agricultural interests and acting as a catalyst for innovation and economic growth. Reinvesting funds from H.R. 1 will broaden the reach and impact of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) trade expansion and promotion programs. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 will also mitigate global food insecurity by transferring the authorities of the Food for Peace Act to USDA, providing U.S. producers with stable markets and streamlining programs that have long been overrun with bureaucratic bloat.

Transfers the authorities of the Food for Peace Act to USDA.

- Building off of decades of efforts to restore the original intent of our international feeding programs, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 transfers the authorities of the Food for Peace Act from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to USDA.
- Inspired by [H.R. 1207](#), the transfer provisions ensure that USDA can wholly operate the programs under the Food for Peace Act by granting them authority over the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and licenses that were previously held by USAID.
- Reserves 50% of Food for Peace resources for U.S. grown commodities and ocean shipping, as seen in [H.R. 4293](#) (118th Congress). This change returns the program to its original intent of addressing the global hunger crisis through the purchase of U.S. grown commodities and expands U.S. market access abroad.

Directly increases funding for the Market Access Program (MAP), Foreign Market Development Program (FMD), E Kika de la Garza Emerging Markets Program (EMP), Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC), and Priority Trade Fund (PTF).

- Inspired by nearly unanimous, bipartisan consensus, this provision substantially increases the funding provided to MAP, FMD, EMP, TASC, and PTF to fill the need for heightened market access and trade promotion.
 - MAP: \$410M/year (increased from \$200M/year)
 - FMD: \$82M/year (increased from \$34.5M/year)
 - EMP: \$16M/year (increased from \$8M/year)
 - TASC: \$18M/year (increased from \$9M/year)
 - PTF: \$7M/year (increased from \$3.5M/year)
- A limiting factor to growing export markets for U.S. food and agriculture products is insufficient infrastructure capabilities. Inspired by [H.R. 2322](#), organizations can

enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in new and developing foreign markets, including infrastructure related to cold chain capacity and port improvements via needs assessments, technical assistance, and training. Up to \$5M/year of mandatory spending will be made available to carry out this provision.

Addresses trade barriers and infrastructure deficiencies.

- It is imperative the U.S. protect American food products from unfair trade practices imposed by foreign countries. Therefore, as seen in [H.R. 2558](#), USDA is directed to secure foreign markets for goods using common names (e.g., parmesan, bologna), preventing foreign countries from using their economic and political influence to implement unfair trade practices under the guise of protecting geographic indicators.
- After public notice and comment, requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress detailing the policies or practices of foreign countries that act as significant barriers to specialty crop exports or those that heighten the competitiveness of imported specialty crops with domestic producers.

Reduces bureaucracy associated with programs meant to respond to immediate crises.

- Pulled from the tenants of [H.R. 4293](#) (118th Congress), this provision responds to the fallout of the 2022 drawdown of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust by granting the USDA Secretary full authority over the Trust, ensuring a seamless process in future.

Fosters education partnerships to ensure developing countries can benefit from our nation's advanced research and developing technologies.

- Enhances the International Agricultural Education Fellowship program to promote cultural exchange and immersion programming focused on agricultural sciences, food systems, and food and nutrition education in developing countries.



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TITLE IV: NUTRITION

Title IV: Nutrition. Building off of the historic reforms included in [H.R. 1](#), the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 prioritizes taxpayers, farmers, and our neighbors in need by advancing policies that expand the reach of critical feeding programs, improve nutrition, and hold states accountable, ***all without increasing federal spending.***

Prioritizes innovation and improves access to nutrition programs that support our farmers and neighbors in need.

- Authorizes state-led local food purchasing programs, similar to the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA), to connect farmers and producers with their local food distribution organizations, as championed in [H.R. 4782](#).
- Expands the offerings of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), as seen in [H.R. 293](#).
- Expands access to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) through a program delivery pilot that prioritizes rural communities, similar to [H.R. 1538](#), and through a Demonstration Pilot Program for Tribal Organizations.
- Strengthens the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) by improving year-round availability of incentives through the use of all forms of produce (frozen, fresh, canned, and dried) and by waiving the federal match in counties with high poverty rates, each championed via [H.R. 1782](#) and [H.R. 4856](#) (118th Congress).
- Includes language mandating that USDA make the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot a permanent shopping option nationwide, as seen in [H.R. 7469](#).

Creates a stronger, more sustainable connection between health and federal nutrition programs, an important step towards Making America Healthy Again.

- As seen in [H.R. 2326](#), codifies Trump Administration reforms to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) process to emphasize science, integrity, and transparency, and de-emphasize politics and issues irrelevant to food and nutrition science from impacting consumer choice and behavior.
- In alignment with the 2025-2030 DGAs, prioritizes whole, high-quality protein by expanding SNAP healthy incentives to include animal protein.
- Reflecting the DGAs updated recommendations on full-fat dairy and whole foods, expands the reach and impact of the SNAP dairy incentive program by including full-fat fluid milk and hard cheeses, as seen in [H.R. 2496](#).
- Refocuses the purpose of SNAP as defined in the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to a program that promotes a healthy lifestyle, and — for the first time — calls

attention to diet-related chronic disease that has impacted military readiness, health care costs, and increased disability claims.

Holds USDA and states accountable to the generosity of the American taxpayer.

- Inspired by [H.R. 762](#), requires USDA to include all identified SNAP payment errors, regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental annual report.
- Similar to [H.R. 7585](#) (118th Congress), ensures that states can transition swiftly to chip-enabled SNAP EBT cards, protecting SNAP participants and taxpayers from criminals and bad actors, by requiring that USDA undertake certain rulemaking.
- Requires the Government Accountability Office to investigate skyrocketing SNAP administrative costs in the states.
- Allows states to make more decisions about the administration of certain aspects of SNAP, as seen in [H.R. 2811](#).
- Reauthorizes the SNAP Fraud Framework Implementation Grant Program, which supports state agency efforts to improve and expand recipient fraud prevention, detection, and investigation efforts.



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TITLE V: CREDIT

Title V: Credit. Our nation's producers often borrow more in a single growing season than most Americans will over a lifetime. Over the last five years, interest rates have risen sharply, driving up borrowing costs and narrowing production margins. This is especially hard on younger and beginning producers who are still working to establish their operations. USDA credit programs play a critical role in ensuring producers can access the capital they need to get started, remain competitive, and maintain long-term financial independence.

Enhances financing options for producers who are unable to obtain credit from a commercial lender.

- Includes the provisions of [H.R. 1991](#):
 - Updates loan limits
 - Guaranteed Operating Loans – \$3 million
 - Indexed to CPI
 - Guaranteed Ownership Loans – \$3.5 million
 - Indexed to land values
 - Direct Operating Loans – \$750,000
 - Direct Ownership Loans – \$850,000
 - Microloans – \$100,000
 - Aligns Down Payment Loan Program with Direct Ownership Loans
 - Subject to certain conditions, now allows for the refinancing of distressed guaranteed loans into direct loans.
- Ensures faster approval times for certified and preferred guaranteed lenders, a modified concept from [H.R. 7426](#) (119th Congress).
- Increases access to credit by now allowing businesses that support the fishing industry such as equipment suppliers, repair shops, cold storage facilities, and fuel or bait providers to qualify for loans through the Farm Credit System as seen in [H.R. 2518](#) (119th Congress).

Provides resources to new, young, beginning, and veteran farmers in their transition to farming and ranching.

- Reduces and streamlines the experience requirements to expand access for beginning farmers, inspired by [H.R. 5172](#) (118th Congress).
- Cuts red tape related to regulations on the type of entity structures that can be used when transitioning a farm operation from one generation to another, inspired by [H.R. 6779](#) (119th Congress)
- Reauthorizes the Heirs Property Relending Program from the 2018 farm bill and allows USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with public interest legal

service providers to assist producers in resolving ownership records and transitioning land into agricultural production, as seen in [H.R. 8198](#) (118th Congress).

- Establishes a pre-approval pilot program for USDA ownership loans as well as guaranteed ownership and operating loans to streamline producer access to capital, inspired by [H.R. 4156](#) (119th Congress) and [H.R. 7475](#) (119th Congress).
- Reauthorizes Cooperative Lending Pilot Projects, Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts, and maintains the 50% direct loan fund set aside for beginning farmers and ranchers.

Protects and enhances the ability of commercial lenders to provide rural America with a reliable source of credit and capital.

- Expands access to the secondary market for certain guaranteed energy loans.
- Removes antiquated loan limitations for certain Farmer Mac activities and allows them to reflect the modern way of doing business.
- Establishes that the Farm Credit Administration is the sole financial regulator of the Farm Credit System, concepts from [H.R. 1063](#) (119th Congress).
- Achieves the goals of [H.R. 1246](#) (119th Congress) by providing Farm Credit institutions with the ability to partner with community banks and other lenders in financing essential community facilities such as those providing healthcare, childcare, and emergency services.
- Provides flexibility for financing agricultural exports.



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TITLE VI: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Title VI: Rural Development. Programs offered by USDA's Rural Development play a vital role in enhancing rural life and fostering economic growth. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 continues the long history of bipartisan support for rural development initiatives and implements important improvements to ensure a robust rural economy.

Prioritizes Mental Health, Behavioral Health, and Maternal Health Projects.

- Adds mental health, behavioral health, and maternal health projects as prioritizations under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine and Community Facilities programs. Maintains 20% set-aside for projects that provide substance use disorder treatment, as well as mental health, behavioral health, and maternal health projects as prioritizations. Based on concepts found in [H.R. 1906](#) (119th Congress).

Establishes Rural Childcare Initiative.

- Establishes a three-year rural childcare initiative, which directs USDA to prioritize projects that address the availability, quality, and cost of childcare in agricultural and rural communities through the Community Facilities Program, Business & Industry Loan Guarantee Program, Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program, and Intermediary Relending Program. Based on [H.R. 3922](#) (119th Congress).

Codifies Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program.

- Codifies and strengthens the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program, with the intention for the program to continue fulfilling its current responsibilities focusing on preventing closures, strengthening essential health services, and improving the financial and operational sustainability of rural healthcare facilities. Based on language found in [H.R. 1417](#) (119th Congress).

Fosters Investments in Rural Businesses and Cooperatives across America.

- Reauthorizes crucial USDA Rural Development business programs that invest in our rural communities, the foundation of Rural America:
 - Rural Business Development Grants Program at \$65 million per year for five years. This program promotes economic development and job creation projects through the awarding of grant funds to eligible entities.
 - Intermediate Relending Program at \$25 million per year for five years. This program provides 1% low-interest loans to local lenders or “intermediaries”

that re-lend to businesses to improve economic conditions and create jobs in rural communities.

- National Rural Development Partnership for five years. This Partnership helps and builds the capacity of states and rural communities to design flexible and innovative responses to their own special rural development needs.
- Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program at \$20 million per year for five years. This program provides loans and grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations to help microenterprises startup and grow through a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund and provides training and technical assistance to microloan borrowers and micro entrepreneurs. The bill increases the size of a microloan from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and increases the permitted federal share of the cost of a project from 75% to up to 100%. Based on [H.R. 4935](#) (119th Congress).
- Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program at \$10 million per year for five years. RISE offers grant assistance to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas. The bill modifies RISE to provide funding for career pathway programs and industry or sector partnerships to build out workforce pipelines for specific industry sectors in rural America. Based on concepts found in [H.R. 291](#) (119th Congress).
- Rural Business Investment Program at \$20 million per year for five years. This program aims to promote economic development in rural areas by providing venture capital to rural businesses through licensed Rural Business Investment Companies, which are privately managed investment funds that invest equity capital in small and emerging rural businesses.
- Rural Economic Development Loan (REDL) and Grant (REDG) Program at \$10 million per year for five years. These programs fund eligible projects using local utility organizations as intermediary lenders. REDL funds can be used for projects that help create and keep jobs in rural areas. With REDG funds, local utility organizations use grants to establish revolving loan funds that support projects that help create rural jobs. The bill allows REDL and REDG awardees to provide other forms of collateral to secure loans besides a letter of credit. Based on [H.R. 5598](#) (119th Congress).
- Spurs rural innovation and jobs by authorizing vital business and technical assistance programs at USDA Rural Development:
 - Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans for five years. The bill broadens the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program to support new investments in food infrastructure across aggregation, processing, storage,

and distribution for a more resilient and diverse U.S. food supply chain. Based on [H.R. 4873](#) (118th Congress).

- New, Mobile, And Expanded Meat Processing and Rendering Grants at \$3 million per year for five years. The bill authorizes a meat and poultry processing and rendering grant program to support both new and expanding meat and poultry processors and renderers, while also facilitating producer investments to foster competition within the packing sector. Based on concepts in [H.R. 559](#) (118th Congress) and [H.R. 3076](#) (119th Congress).
- Technical Assistance for Geographically Underserved and Distressed Areas. The bill requires the Secretary to provide technical assistance and strengthen local capacity to improve access to rural development programs administered by USDA for local partners (including local governments, cooperatives, businesses, and community anchor institutions) in geographically underserved and distressed areas. Based on [H.R. 6433](#) (119th Congress).
- Reauthorizes key cooperative programs at USDA Rural Development that positively impact rural America:
 - Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RCDG) Program at \$40 million per year for five years. This program enables nonprofit institutions to establish and operate centers for rural cooperative development in order to improve the economic conditions of rural areas by facilitating the creation of jobs through the development of new rural cooperatives, value added processing, and rural businesses. Based on concepts in [H.R. 1951](#) (119th Congress).
 - Rural Business-Cooperative Service Programs Technical Assistance and Training at \$5 million per year for five years. This program provides technical assistance and training for those applying to programs at the Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Invests in Rural Water Infrastructure.

- Reauthorizes much-needed USDA Rural Development water infrastructure programs:
 - Water, Waste Disposal, and Wastewater Facility Grants Program at \$15 million per year for five years. This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. Based on [H.R. 7476](#) (119th Congress).
 - Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program at \$25 million per year for five years. Codifies and reauthorizes the purpose, activities, and requirements of the Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program, which provides technical assistance to rural water systems that are

experiencing day-to-day operational, financial, or managerial issues. Based on concepts found in [H.R. 2109](#) (119th Congress).

- Zero and Low Interest Loans for Distressed Water Systems. Allows the Secretary to issue zero and low-interest loans, modify existing loans, and forgive principal for distressed water systems, while requiring recipients of assistance develop long-term financial plans and receive financial planning assistance. Based on [H.R. 7530](#) (119th Congress).
- Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program at \$50 million per year for five years. This program helps eligible communities prepare or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water.
- Rural Decentralized Water Systems Program at \$20 million per year for five years. In addition to maintaining funding for the construction, refurbishment, and servicing of well water and wastewater systems, the bill allows funds to be used for qualified water quality testing in cases of potentially contaminated groundwater. If the test results confirm contamination, funds can also be used to purchase and install water treatment equipment. Based on concepts found in [H.R. 4721](#) (119th Congress).
- Solid Waste Management Grants Program at \$10 million per year for five years. This program reduces or eliminates pollution of water resources by providing funding to organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. The bill clarifies that Indian tribes are eligible for grants under this program.
- Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program for five years. These programs provide funding to nonprofit organizations who then provide water and wastewater technical assistance and training. The bill allows the use of funds to also include disaster and recovery assistance.

Improves precision agriculture practices and increasing accessibility of precision agriculture services.

- Establishes a partnership between the federal government and the private sector to create voluntary interconnectivity standards and prioritize the cybersecurity needs for precision agriculture technologies. Based on language found in [H.R. 1985](#) (119th Congress).
- Helps rural entities expand the adoption of precision agriculture practices, including by financing the acquisition of precision agriculture technology. Based on language found in [H.R. 6143](#) (119th Congress).

Establishes the Rural Development Innovation Center.

- Codifies the Rural Development Innovation Center at the Rural Development Mission Area to promote and facilitate innovation in the administration and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives.

Strengthens broadband connectivity to rural communities.

- ReConnect Rural Broadband Program
 - Integrates the ReConnect Program into the Farm Bill Broadband Program, now renamed the ReConnect Rural Broadband Program. Based on concepts found in [H.R. 3216](#) (118th Congress) and [H.R. 3119](#) (119th Congress).
 - Raises the minimum eligibility speeds from 25/3 Mbps to 50/25 Mbps.
 - To anticipate advancement in broadband capability, provides the Secretary the authority to adjust the minimum eligibility speed, within limitations, through a 30-day notice and comment period.
 - Provides the highest priority for proposed project areas that have less than 25/3 Mbps connectivity. Based on concepts in [H.R. 3280](#) (119th Congress).
 - Increases the project buildout speed agreements, based on a multiple of minimum eligibility speed, similar to a concept found in the [2018 Farm Bill](#).
 - Clarifies the list of eligible entities who may apply for assistance. Based on language found in [H.R. 3119](#) (119th Congress).
 - Provides the Secretary with the authority to provide financial assistance to affiliates of eligible entities to construct broadband networks in rural areas. Based on language found in [H.R. 3216](#) (118th Congress).
 - Prioritizes applications of eligible entities who have provided broadband service or other utility service for at least five years in rural areas in the state in which the project would be carried out. Based on concepts found in [H.R. 3119](#) (119th Congress) and [H.R. 3280](#) (119th Congress).
 - Sunsets ReConnect and requires unobligated dollars from ReConnect to be transferred to the new ReConnect Rural Broadband Program. Based on concepts found in [H.R. 3216](#) (118th Congress) and [H.R. 3119](#) (119th Congress).
 - Authorizes the ReConnect Rural Broadband Program at \$350 million per year for five years.
- Middle Mile Program
 - Reauthorizes program at \$10 million per year for five years. Based on [H.R. 5037](#) (119th Congress). This program provides grants, loans, and loan guarantees to build out infrastructure that connects local networks to the larger internet backbone.
- Community Connect Program.
 - Reauthorizes program at \$50 million per year for five years. Based on language found in [H.R. 6070](#) (119th Congress). This program provides grants for the construction of retail broadband networks for "community-oriented" connectivity by providing free service at all participating community facilities and free access points for at least two years, in addition to retail service.

- Innovative Broadband Advancement Program (IBAP)
 - Reauthorizes IBAP at \$10 million per year for five years. This program provides USDA with flexibility to finance novel and unique demonstration projects that hold promise to be replicable in other rural communities.
 - The bill modifies IBAP to include both terrestrial broadband demonstration projects and satellite broadband demonstration projects.
- Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program
 - Reauthorizes this crucial program at \$82 million per year for five years. Based on language found in [H.R. 290](#) (119th Congress). This program provides grants to eligible entities for the construction of broadband facilities and equipment related to telepresence activities.
- Broadband Technical Assistance Program
 - Codifies program and allows entities to receive technical assistance for all USDA broadband programs. Based on concepts found in [H.R. 3119](#) (119th Congress), [H.R. 3125](#) (119th Congress) and [H.R. 3280](#) (119th Congress).
- Miscellaneous Broadband Provisions
 - As part of the existing challenge process within USDA Rural Utilities Service for broadband applications, the Farm Bill clarifies that the Secretary must verify the information presented by the challenger, subsequently issue an agency determination to the challenger, provide an opportunity for the submitter to provide a response. Finally, the Secretary shall deliver a conclusive, non-appealable, determination. Based on concepts in [H.R. 3216](#) (118th Congress).
 - As part of the existing notice requirements, the farm bill further clarifies that the applicant must submit a complete shapefile map of the proposed service area with each application submitted for all retail broadband projects. Based on language found in [H.R. 3216](#) (118th Congress).
 - Clarifies USDA must utilize the Federal Communication Commission's broadband maps as part of its verification process when confirming unserved locations in any USDA broadband program application. Based on language found in [H.R. 3216](#) (118th Congress).
 - Includes a limitation on overbuilding, preventing funding for broadband projects in areas already receiving federal or state broadband program funds to provide retail broadband service. This restriction applies if the obligation of funds was made within the last five years and the planned broadband service speed is at least 100/20 Mbps.



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TITLE VII: RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

Title VII: Research, Extension, and Related Matters. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 keeps American agriculture at the forefront of innovation and productivity through cutting-edge research while supporting the nation's land-grant and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture.

Building off of substantial investments to SCRI in H.R. 1, this package supports research and development for the specialty crop industry and allocates funding specifically for research for mechanization and automation technologies.

- Allows the Secretary to waive the matching funds requirement for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative based on a concept found in [H.R. 3656](#).
- Provides \$30 million per year from the Specialty Crop Research Initiative to fund a new Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research and Extension Program inspired by [H.R. 4173](#) (118th Congress).
- Establishes a High-Priority Research and Extension Initiative for Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research inspired by [H.R. 4162](#) (118th Congress).

Provides support for 1890 institutions.

- Increases the authorization of appropriations for extension at 1890 institutions to an amount not less than 40% of appropriations for the Smith Lever Act.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations for agricultural research at 1890 institutions to an amount not less than 40% of appropriations for the Hatch Act of 1887.
- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct outreach to state governments regarding their matching funds requirement to 1890 institutions and requires state governments to submit attestations related to the states' ability to meet such requirements based on a concept from [H.R. 5780](#) (118th Congress).
- Increases the number of 1890 Centers of Excellence to not less than eight and establishes two new focus areas based on a concept from [H.R. 4236](#) (118th Congress).

Promotes interagency coordination in agricultural research at other federal agencies.

- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into memoranda of understanding with the Secretary of Energy, Secretary of Defense, and the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities based on concepts from [H.R. 1326](#) and [H.R. 3707](#).

Supports capacity funding for research, extension, and education activities.

- Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for the Hatch Act of 1887 and the Smith-Lever Act to support capacity funding programs at 1862 land-grants.
- Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for the Evans-Allen Program and 1890s Extension to support capacity funding programs at 1890 land-grants.
- Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for the Equity in Education Land Grant Status Act of 1994 to support capacity funding programs at 1994 land grants and improves program delivery, including:
 - Removing the \$100,000 cap per institution for payments to the 1994 institutions; and
 - Removing the requirement that research grants to 1994 institutions must be performed under a cooperative agreement.
- Maintains the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962 which supports forestry research at state forestry schools and colleges.
- Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for the Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture Institutions.

Supports competitive funding for research, extension, and education activities.

- Reauthorizes the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative — the flagship competitive grant program — and refines priorities to ensure the program reflects the current needs of the agriculture industry, including:
 - Regionally adapted cultivars and breeding for environmental resilience inspired by provisions in [H.R. 3077](#);
 - Methods of increasing survival rate and adaptability of shellfish inspired by provisions in [H.R. 4898](#);
 - Hydroponics, aquaponics, aeroponics, and other production technologies used in controlled environment agriculture production inspired by provisions in [H.R. 5915](#) (118th Congress);
 - Supply chain coordination and capacity building; and
 - Workforce training and development, including meat and poultry processing, rendering, and precision agriculture inspired by provisions in [H.R. 3076](#), [H.R. 559](#) (118th Congress) and [H.R. 5459](#) (118th Congress).
- Reforms the process for designating Centers of Excellence and directing the Secretary to establish at least 15 Centers of Excellence for various focus areas.
- Authorizes Grants for Community College Agricultural and Natural Resources Programs inspired by [H.R. 5468](#).
- Maintains mandatory funding for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative at \$50 million per year.
- Maintains mandatory funding for the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (FOTO) program at \$50 million per year which supports the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) and the Outreach and

Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (2501 Program).

- Reauthorizes the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AgARDA) and makes minor improvements inspired by [H.R. 2385](#) (118th Congress) and [H.R. 5854](#).
- Reauthorizes the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) and makes improvements based on concepts from [H.R. 4400](#) and [H.R. 5246](#) (118th Congress).
- Reauthorizes Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agricultural Sciences Education inspired by [H.R. 1952](#).
- Reauthorizes the Genome to Phenome Initiative, inspired by [H.R. 2839](#).
- Reauthorizes the Grants for Youth Organization Program inspired by [H.R. 2812](#);
- Improves and reauthorizes the Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities (AgrAbility) based on a concept from [H.R. 4586](#) (118th Congress).
- Codifies the Agriculture Grants for Veteran Education and Training Services (AgVets) program to establish farming and ranching opportunities for military veterans as found in [H.R. 1230](#).
- Refines the High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives to include the:
 - Tropical Plant Health Initiative based on concepts from [H.R. 5562](#);
 - Biochar Research Initiative based on a concept from [H.R. 4764](#);
 - Wildfire Smoke Exposure Research Initiative, inspired by [H.R. 2084](#);
 - Invasive Species Research Initiative based on concepts from [H.R. 4162](#) (118th Congress), [H.R. 4708](#), and [H.R. 7798](#) (118th Congress);
 - Microplastics and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances on Farmland Initiative based on a concept from [H.R. 3991](#);
 - Soil Health Research Initiative based on a concept from [H.R. 6811](#) (118th Congress);
 - White Oak Research Initiative based on a concept from [H.R. 2405](#);
 - Alternative Growing Media Research Initiative; and
 - Rangeland Research Initiative.
- Adds an insular area representative to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board as seen in [H.R. 4593](#) (118th Congress).
- Adds examining potential benefits and opportunities for winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted canola crops as an eligible use of funds for the Supplemental and Alternative Crops Program as seen in [H.R. 2858](#).
- Creates an Aquaculture Advisory Committee under the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 based on a concept from [H.R. 3951](#) (118th Congress).

Establishes a Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service Modernization to improve the efficiency of NASS data collection and quality of the statistics reported, as seen in [H.R. 2307](#).



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TITLE VIII: FORESTRY

Title VIII: Forestry. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 promotes active forest management through incentivizing public-private partnerships creating new market opportunities and revitalizing rural communities while reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health to ensure healthy and productive Federal, State, Tribal and private forests.

Expands, streamlines, and creates new public-private partnerships to encourage active forest management and enhance forest health.

- Expands good neighbor agreements to include special districts. Codifies the option for up to 20-year contracts for stewardship end result contracting.
- Reauthorizes and improves the Water Source Protection Program based on [H.R. 605](#).
- Reauthorizes the National Forest Foundation and creates a White Oak Restoration Fund, as seen in [H.R. 2405](#), to assist with white oak regeneration.
- Codifies the Special Forests Products Program as seen in [H.R. 5335](#) (118th Congress).
- Establishes the public-private wildfire technology deployment and testbed partnership program from [H.R. 4235](#) (118th Congress).
- Codifies the Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resources Program by including provisions from [H.R. 5381](#) (118th Congress).
- Directs the Secretary to develop a strategy, as seen in [H.R. 1110](#), to utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction strategy on Federal land.

Creates new and enhances existing market opportunities for forest products, including leveraging data sources and tools, investing in innovative wood products, and expanding the use of biochar.

- Reauthorizes, renames, and enhances the Community Wood Facilities Grant Program, as seen in [H.R. 2517](#), by increasing the maximum grant for a project, the maximum capacity of a community facility energy system, and the federal cost-share.
- Reauthorizes and modernizes the Wood Innovation Grant Program, reduces the non-federal match, and authorizes grants for hauling hazardous fuels reduction materials to locations that can utilize it.
- Includes provisions from [H.R. 5044](#) (118th Congress) to support innovative wood products through WIG and establish a platform to track forest and wood products data.
- Includes [H.R. 1213](#) to modernize and standardize Forest Inventory Analysis data collection and increase data accessibility, usability and transparency.

- Authorizes a biochar application demonstration project to facilitate the use of biochar, develop new biochar applications, and support the commercialization of biochar.
- Reauthorizes and renames the National Agroforestry Centers, directs the Secretary to establish one or more additional regional centers, and requires national agroforestry products survey every five years.

Revitalizes rural communities and improves forest health through cross-boundary authorities.

- Allows the flexible use of funding for the development and implementation of state forest action plans.
- Reauthorizes the Landscape-Scale Restoration Program.
- Reauthorizes and modernizes the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, as seen in [H.R. 3361](#), to consider proposals using innovative implementation mechanisms, reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire or increasing ecological restoration activities in specific areas, and enhancing watershed health and drinking water sources.
- Reauthorizes the funding authorizations for hazardous fuel reduction on federal land, cross-boundary wildfire mitigation, and insect infestations and related diseases.
- Reauthorizes the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program.

Simplifies environmental process requirements, while ensuring environmental protection by building upon the success of categorical exclusions and other streamlined authorities.

- Expands the collaborative restoration CE to 10,000 acres.
- Expands the wildfire resilience CE to 10,000 acres.
- Expands the fuel break CE to 10,000 acres.
- Provides technical corrections to the greater sage grouse and mule deer habitat CE and allows for up to 4,500 acres in forested ecosystems and 7,500 acres in rangeland ecosystems.
- Establishes a CE for high priority hazard tree activities.
- Establishes a CE for electric utility lines rights-of-way.
- Includes [H.R. 598](#), the Cottonwood Fix.
- Reduces bureaucracy in the removal of trees around electrical lines, as seen in [H.R. 2492](#).
- Contains provisions, as seen in [H.R. 178](#), that require the Forest Service use available resources to suppress wildfires within 24 hours of detection.
- Includes language, similar to [H.R. 179](#), to expand an existing CE for forest thinning and management projects up to 10,000 acres.

Improves Forest Service administration and implementation of programs and authorities by reducing bureaucratic red tape, clarifying processes, and increasing agency accountability and transparency.

- Increases the threshold required to advertise timber sales on National Forest System land to reflect inflation.
- Ensures accurate accounting of agency accomplishments as seen in [H.R. 204](#).
- Extends the authorization of Resource Advisory Committees and the Regional Forester appointment pilot program.
- Waives administrative fees for special use authorizations for non-profit amateur stations or operators or amateur radio services.
- Requires transparency and public engagement in the Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program.
- Permanently authorizes the Experienced Services Program.
- Includes provisions from [H.R. 1011](#) to improve the Emergency Forest Restoration Program by offering advance payments of up to 75% of the cost of the emergency measures.
- Provides the Forest Service direct hire authority for Job Corps graduates.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TITLE IX: ENERGY

Title IX: Energy. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 increases access to energy system and efficiency updates for farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses while encouraging growth and innovation for biofuels, bioproducts, and related feedstocks.

Allows for critical cost and energy savings by increasing access to the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

- Increases the maximum loan guarantee to \$50,000,000.
- Requires the Secretary to consider the potential improvements to the financial condition of a REAP applicant when scoring applications.

Streamlines program delivery and enhances program integrity for biobased market programs and biofuels and bioproducts development programs.

- Reauthorizes and improves the BioPreferred Program by requiring the Secretary to issue procurement guidance to agencies, implementing more thorough reporting procedures for agency procurement, and increasing procurement accountability and verification, as seen in provisions from [H.R. 4832](#) (119th Congress).
- Directs the relevant agencies to develop NAICS and NAPCS codes, establishes a report to recommend bioeconomy-related changes for the 2027 NAICS and NAPCS codes revisions, and assesses the development of a national measurement of the economic contributions of the bioeconomy.
- Provides the Secretary with the authority to establish uniform labeling standards for bioproducts.
- Inspired by [H.R. 3253](#) (119th Congress), reauthorizes and improves the 9003 Program by expanding eligibility for innovative biobased product manufacturing technologies and authorizing the Secretary to waive the requirement to demonstrate commercial viability for projects adopting commercially available technologies.
- Ensures transparency and accountability in the 9003 application process by establishing a technical review agreement that outlines the specific objectives, outcomes, and conditions by which the Secretary will determine the project technically feasible.
- Affirms sustainable aviation fuel as an advanced biofuel, as seen in [H.R. 1719](#) (119th Congress).
- Reauthorizes the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program.

Addresses concerns about the conversion of private forestland and prime farmland into ground-mounted solar panel installations.

- Requires the Administration to study the impacts of solar installations on private forestland and prime farmland, based on concepts in [H.R. 8277](#) (118th Congress), [H.R. 7391](#) (118th Congress), and [H.R. 3077](#) (119th Congress).
- Limits USDA's ability to invest funding in projects that convert private forestland or prime farmland into ground-mounted solar installations, based on concepts laid out in [H.R. 1592](#) (119th Congress), while still providing flexibility for farmers, ranchers, and producers to invest in solar to help reduce input costs.

Protects investments in rural electric systems and higher blends infrastructure.

- Maintains existing dollars for assistance to rural electric cooperatives for emissions-reducing rural energy systems.
- Maintains the authority for and investments in the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TITLE X: HORTICULTURE, MARKETING, AND REGULATORY REFORM

Title X: Horticulture, Marketing, and Regulatory Reform. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 makes critical investments that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops and protect plant health. It also delivers commonsense regulatory reforms necessary to relieve American farmers and ranchers from overregulation.

Continuing support for specialty crop producers after substantial investments in H.R. 1, this title includes improvements to the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and the continuation of market news programs.

- Establishes a stakeholder consultation process in the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to direct program administrators to consult with producers when setting priorities inspired [H.R. 4838](#) (118th Congress).
- Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for the Specialty Crops Market News Allocation.

Maintains funding for the Local Agriculture Market Program and improves program delivery through simplified applications.

- Continues mandatory funding for the Local Agriculture Market Program — which includes the Value-Added Producer Grant Program, Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program, and the Regional Food System Partnerships Program — at \$50 million per year.
- Includes provisions inspired by [H.R. 2723](#) (118th Congress), including:
 - Adding food hubs as eligible entities for the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program; and
 - Directing the Secretary to establish simplified applications for the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program for certain project categories.

Building off of wins in H.R. 1, this title continues support for organic production through the National Organic Program, Organic Production and Market Data Initiative, and National Organic Certification Cost Share Program.

- Adds a requirement to collect and publish cost-of-production data for organic milk through the Organic Production and Market Data Initiative inspired by [H.R. 4110](#).
- Directs the Secretary to provide technical assistance, outreach, and education to support organic production through existing programs at various agencies throughout the Department.
- Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for the National Organic Program.

Enhances other horticulture and marketing programs in the title, including:

- Amending the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production by including provisions inspired by [H.R. 5915](#) (118th Congress) by:
 - Expanding the responsibilities of the Office to include providing guidance and promoting conservation techniques for activities related to urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices;
 - Authorizing the Office to enter into cooperative agreements to support urban and innovative agricultural production; and
 - Removing the pilot status for Community Compost and Reducing Food Waste projects.
- Reauthorizing the Acer Access and Development Program and directs the Secretary to consult with maple syrup industry stakeholders when setting priorities for the program as seen in [H.R. 289](#).
- Removing the exclusion of dates for processing from and adds almonds and mandarins to the list of imported commodities to which commodity marketing orders are applicable.

Increases transparency into the process by which domestic commodities or products are procured by USDA.

- Directs the Secretary to submit a report to Congress that examines the procurement process, including barriers to entry into such process, the diet quality and accessibility of procured commodities, and recommendations for improvements procurement.

Reduces regulatory burdens for producers of industrial hemp.

- Allows for USDA, states, and tribes to reduce or eliminate testing requirements and background checks for producers of industrial hemp inspired by [H.R. 3755](#) (118th Congress).
- Directs USDA to establish a process by which laboratories can be accredited for the purposes of testing hemp.

Takes several steps to deliver commonsense regulatory reform and restore transparency and science to the Federal government.

- Provides the EPA with adequate time to complete registration review requirements for pesticides while incorporating updated environmental considerations.
- Includes language reaffirming that the EPA is the sole authority for making safety findings related to pesticides while retaining the states' ability to further regulate the use of these tools as seen in [H.R. 4288](#) (118th Congress).
- Clarifies that the state lead agencies charged with implementing EPA regulations under FIFRA are the agencies in that state with the authority to regulate the use of crop protection and pest control tools, providing regulatory certainty for farmers, commercial applicators, and small businesses who rely on these tools.

- Strengthens coordination with EPA and USDA during the registration and registration review processes for a pesticide, including on the development of risk mitigation measures inspired by [H.R. 5070](#) (118th Congress).
- Provides clarity and spurs innovation in the plant biostimulant industry by excluding plant biostimulants from regulation under FIFRA inspired by [H.R. 3783](#).
- Removes excessive regulatory burdens for plant breeders by exempting certain plant-incorporated protectants from federal regulation.
- Extends the reporting requirements for the FIFRA Interagency Working Group (IWG) and adds a requirement for EPA to consult with the IWG before implementing any policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program regarding the application of the Endangered Species Act to the pesticide registration and registration review process.
- Provides covered entities — like the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior — with judicial relief to continue using fire retardant for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention activities while they work toward obtaining a Clean Water Act permit as seen in [H.R. 3300](#) (as amended by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee).



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TITLE XI: CROP INSURANCE

Title XI: Crop Insurance. Agricultural producers are greatly affected by numerous factors outside of their control, ranging from extreme weather to geopolitical instability. Crop insurance — a vital risk management tool — is available to help producers manage the unique risks of farming and is delivered through an effective public-private partnership in which the federal government shares in the cost of the premiums, which would make coverage unaffordable for most farmers.

The changes in last summer's **Working Families Tax Cuts (H.R. 1)** laid the groundwork for **producer affordability and program integrity**. Through increased premium support for all levels of coverage and a bolstered delivery system, the federal crop insurance program is better equipped to meet the needs of modern farming. The following changes in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 will build on these wins by further expanding access to crop insurance for those previously unable to obtain coverage.

Directs research and development of new policies and establishes an advisory committee for more robust engagement with specialty crop producers.

- Establishes a specialty crop advisory committee to ensure the unique perspectives of the specialty crop industry have a seat at the table for policy development and expansion.
 - Will consist of at least five producers from all geographic regions of the country and up to 10 total members.
 - Chairperson will have a seat on the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Board.
 - Will have the ability to prioritize R&D and influence education and outreach regarding crop insurance for specialty crop policies and producers.
 - Will be overseen by the Specialty Crops Coordinator, a position created in the 2018 farm bill.
- Directs RMA to undergo Research and Development such as:
 - Revenue policies for sugar beets, certain oilseeds, alfalfa, blueberries, and pulse crops.
 - The creation of a pricing library for specialty crops to help provide more data to jumpstart the creation of more actuarially sound policies.
 - Conduct a pilot to review the effectiveness of the coverage penalty for late planted corn and other commodities.
 - Annual review of limitations under Whole Farm Revenue Protection.
 - Wine grape losses due to smoke exposure, [H.R. 2084](#) (119th Congress).

- Mushrooms, [H.R. 1613](#) (119th Congress).
- Expanding hurricane and tropical storm coverage options.
- Frost or freeze index coverage, [H.R. 7464](#) (119th Congress).
- Double cropping coverage for winter oilseeds, [H.R. 2858](#) (119th Congress).
- Expanding eligibility of certain specialty crops to have access to prevented plant coverage, [H.R. 2858](#) (119th Congress).
- Review for any gaps in data in the Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index endorsement policy, inspired by [H.R. 7462](#) (119th Congress).
- Analysis of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's (FCIC) review process for quality losses, [H.R. 442](#) (119th Congress).

Bolsters the private sector delivery system.

- To ensure successful policy development and ultimately better adoption, enhances the development process for privately submitted insurance policies, ensures adequate time and training for their deployment, and mandates routine reviews for actuarial soundness.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TITLE XII: MISCELLANEOUS

Title XII: Miscellaneous. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 brings together provisions related to livestock health and management, foreign animal disease preparedness, young and beginning farmers, and other key areas.

Building off of wins in H.R. 1, this provision clarifies the functions under the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP).

- With the ongoing highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak and threats such as New World screwworm (NWS) at our doorstep, this clarifies that animal disease traceability is an eligible activity under NADPRP.

Requires a review and report on the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program.

- Inspired by [H.R. 388](#), this directs the Secretary to enter into a contract with a university to review and report on the programs effectiveness in preventing and reducing the spread of tick-borne illness in cattle; benefits and burdens of compliance; treatment protocols; and allocation of funds, including funds used for associated research projects.

Supports ongoing work to detect plant and animal health diseases at our ports of entry.

- Born from the ideas in [H.R. 1480](#) (118th Congress), this provision grants the Secretary the authority to establish additional dog training facilities, as well as an off-site training program, to train specially selected dogs and their handlers to safeguard domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign and invasive pests and diseases.

Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to work in consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate animal disease regionalization agreements with our trading partners.

- Codifies USDA's existing authority to negotiate in advance regionalization, zoning, compartmentalization, and other agreements regarding outbreaks of animal disease threats, as seen in [H.R. 3038](#), to protect our livestock and poultry export markets.

Requires electronic documentation records for the importation of live dogs into the United States.

- Shaped by [H.R. 3349](#), this provision requires dogs imported into the United States to have electronic documentation prior to their importation that confirms the dog is in good health; has received all necessary vaccination and parasite

treatment, demonstrated negative test results, and has a certificate by an accredited veterinarian; is officially identified by a permanent method approved by the Secretary; and in the case of a dog intended for transfer, is at least 6 months old.

- Exceptions are provided for dogs that are personal pets of United States origin returning to the United States; United States military working dogs; for research purposes; coming to the United States solely for veterinary treatment; and are less than 6 months old and are imported into the State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Australia, Guam, or New Zealand, as long as the dog is not transported out of Hawaii at less than 6 months of age.

Clarifies that states and local governments cannot impose, directly or indirectly, as a condition for sale or consumption, a condition or standard on the production of covered livestock unless the livestock is physically located within such state or local government.

- Provides clarity to national markets by ensuring producers must only comply with applicable production standards imposed by their own state or local government.
 - Protects producers from having to comply with a patchwork of state-by-state regulations.
- Protects the rights of states and local governments to establish standards as they deem necessary, but only for those raising covered livestock within their own borders.
- Only covers production (excluding domestic animals raised for the primary purpose of egg production), and does not include the movement, harvesting, or further processing of covered livestock.

Directs USDA to conduct a report on their preparedness to support livestock producers and poultry growers facing economic losses in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak.

- Setting the stage to achieve the goals laid out in [H.R. 1376](#), this provision requires USDA to assess the following:
 - Existing federal programs that assist producers and growers during a foreign animal disease outbreak, including risk management tools, indemnity, direct payments, and herd buyout.
 - USDA's ability to utilize such programs to provide benefits to producers and growers who are experiencing economic losses as a result of having to sell livestock and poultry at a reduced price; having to quarantine, treat, destroy, or dispose of animals; or as a result of catastrophic market conditions.
 - Gaps that exist in USDA's ability to provide such economic support.
 - Recommendations to improve such protections.

Allows livestock auction owners to invest in packing facilities, subject to capacity limitations.

- Includes [H.R. 1648](#), granting livestock auction owners the ability to invest in a packing facility, as long as:
 - With respect to cattle and sheep, the packing facility has a cumulative slaughter capacity of less than 2,000 animals per day or 700,000 animals per year.
 - With respect to hogs, the packing facility has a cumulative slaughter capacity of less than 10,000 animals per day or 3,000,000 animals per year.
- Requires that livestock auction owners disclose to sellers of livestock the existence of such investment in a packing facility.
- Clarifies that nothing within this provision limits the Secretary's existing authority under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Provides guidance documents and other resources for small and very small meat and poultry processing facilities.

- Inspired by provisions in [H.R. 3076](#), this requires the Secretary to make publicly available a list of scientific studies for small and very small establishments to use in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plan; guidelines relating to best practices and techniques used by small and very small establishments in the production of raw or further processed meat and poultry products; and scale-appropriate model HACCP plans for small and very small establishments.
- Also instructs the Secretary to publish a guidance document providing information on the requirements that need to be met for small and very small establishments to develop a HACCP plan.

Increases USDA outreach on the Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program.

- Influenced by [H.R. 3076](#), this directs USDA to conduct outreach to states that have state meat and poultry inspection programs, but do not have selected establishments enrolled in CIS.
- Requires USDA to submit a report detailing the activities and results of the outreach conducted.

Creates a pilot program for the life of the farm bill to allow a small number of custom exempt facilities to sell meat products direct to consumers within the State in which the facility is located.

- Derived from the tenets of [H.R. 4700](#), this pilot program requires clear labeling to indicate:
 - The origin and processing location of covered products.
 - That such products were not processed subject to Federal inspection.
 - That such products cannot be resold.

- It also instructs custom exempt facilities participating in the pilot program to comply with:
 - Existing humane slaughter methods.
 - Applicable state and local laws.
 - Existing custom exempt requirements under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA).
 - Federal sanitation and record keeping requirements, as well as handling and disposition requirements.
 - Onsite inspection requirements by both USDA and local authorities.
- Reporting requirements detailing:
 - The number and locations of persons or custom exempt facilities participating in the pilot program.
 - The outcomes of each such pilot program.
 - Any instances in which a product was subject to emergency action, as discussed in the bullet below.
- In the event that products are adulterated, the Secretary retains existing emergency authority to recall products and is given authority to terminate a custom exempt facility's participation in the pilot program.

Enhances protections for dogs covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

- Requires USDA to conduct a report, as it relates to companion animals, to evaluate the enforcement of standards under the Animal Welfare Act; evaluate efforts by USDA to educate and advise on all standards and requirements of the AWA; evaluate the capacity of USDA to enforce the standards established by the AWA; and make recommendations for the improvement of standards and education efforts under the AWA.
- Affirms that visual dental examinations should be included in existing veterinary requirements.
- Improves USDA response related to dogs in a state of unrelieved suffering.

Continues funding for Protecting Animals with Shelter (PAWS).

- Extends the authorization of appropriations for the Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program through the life of the farm bill.

Requires the Secretary to conduct regular assessments to identify risks and security vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector.

- Ensures USDA is regularly reviewing risks and security vulnerabilities to agriculture — including cybersecurity attacks, foreign dependence on agricultural inputs, intellectual property, and supply chain disruptions — and provides Congress with information related to these threats inspired by provisions from [H.R. 1604](#) and [H.R. 1995](#).

- Directs the Office of Homeland Security to conduct an annual cross-sector crisis simulation exercises related to a food-related emergency or disruption.

Reforms certain reporting requirements under the Agriculture and Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) to ensure accuracy and transparency of data on farmland owned by foreign persons or entities.

- Includes key provisions from [H.R. 4362](#) and [H.R. 5078](#) (118th Congress).
- Requires USDA enter an MOU with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to ensure timely sharing of data on foreign transactions between the two agencies.
- Mandates the adoption of the recommendations contained in the GAO report entitled "Foreign Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: Enhancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share Key Information Could Better Identify National Security Risks."
- Imposes a minimum penalty on any person who knowingly fails to submit or falsifies an AFIDA filing, without being punitive to individuals who self-report errors.
- Directs outreach to provide awareness of requirements under AFIDA.
- Requires a report on any agricultural land owned by citizens or entities with ties to China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and other state sponsors of terrorism and identifies potential threats from the ownership of such land.
- Establishes the position of Chief of Operations of Investigative Actions to audit and oversee activities related to AFIDA and report to CFIUS any land acquisitions that may pose a threat to national security.
- Mandates the creation of a public database for all AFIDA filings.

Expands CFIUS to include the Secretary of Agriculture.

- Includes provisions from [H.R. 1713](#), including:
 - Expands CFIUS to include the Secretary of Agriculture for covered transactions involving agricultural land, biotechnology, or industry.
 - Requires CFIUS to determine if a national security threat review is necessary for reportable land transactions by USDA.

Improves processes at USDA related to civil rights.

- Inspired by provisions from [H.R. 3685](#), including:
 - Creating an Office of the Ombudsman to assist producers in navigating the civil rights review process at the Department; and
 - Requiring USDA to bear the burden of proof for National Appeals Division hearings.

Reauthorizes key programs.

- Reauthorizes the Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050 and makes improvements based on [H.R. 6385](#).

- Requires the USDA Office of Tribal Relations to oversee self-determination contract and self-governance compacts entered into between the Secretary and tribal organizations or Indian tribes.
- Reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for improvements to the United States Drought Monitor.
- Reauthorizes the Report on Personnel.
- Reauthorizes Farmland Ownership Data Collection.
- Makes the Report on Land Access a biennial report and adds a reporting requirement related to existing Federal, State, and private programs that facilitate access to land, capital, and markets inspired by [H.R. 3955](#) (118th Congress).
- Maintains the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives.