

December 5, 2022

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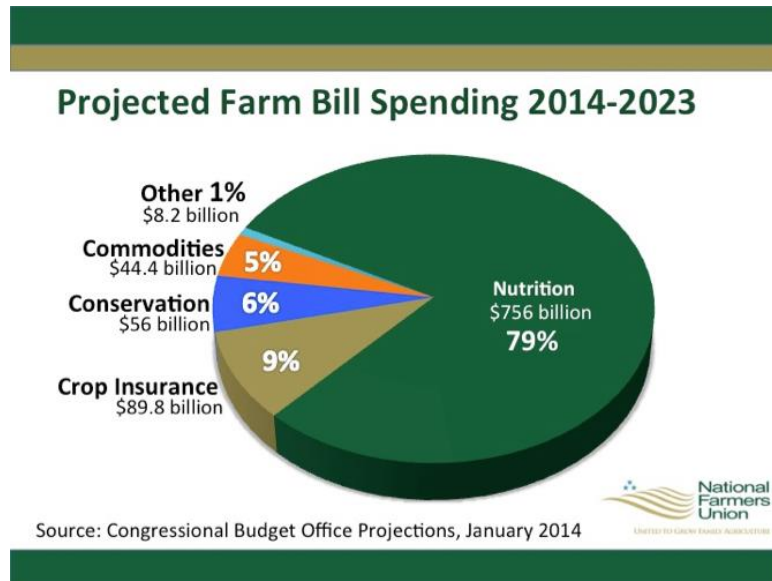
What You Need to Know About the 2023 Farm Bill

A new farm bill is on the horizon and the next few months are going to be critical as to what changes are made from the 2018 farm bill to the 2023 bill. There is no question that it is the single most impactful legislation influencing producers and their operations. The question is, what, if anything, can we do to influence it. The following is a summary of what the Farm Bill is, how it is made, and what avenues exist for your input.

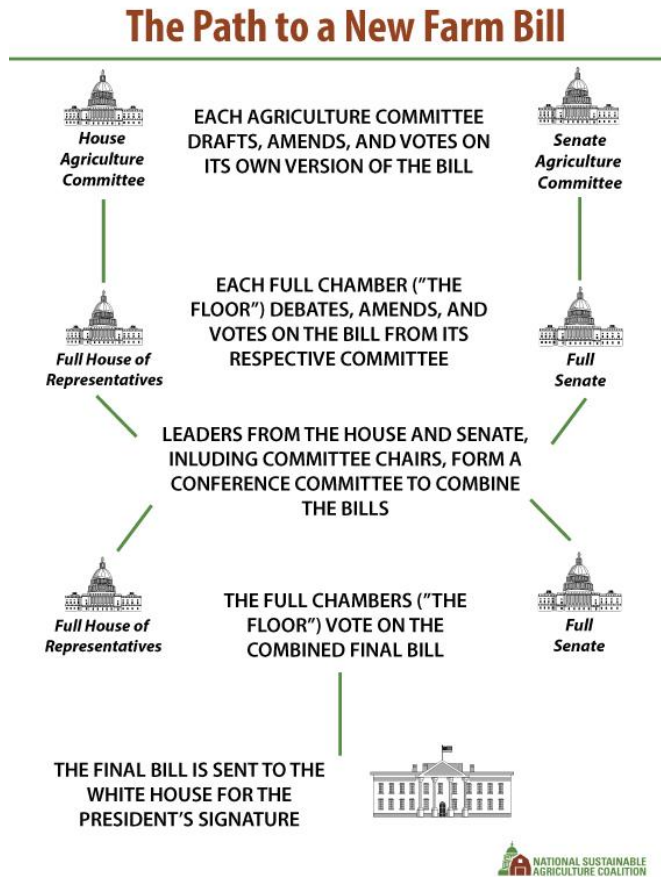
To start, one should know that the original Farm Bill started in the 1930's as part of President Roosevelt's (FDR) New Deal program. According to The Council of State Governments, the Farm Bill had three main goals:

1. Keep food prices fair for farmers and consumers.
2. Ensure an adequate food supply.
3. Protect and sustain the country's vital natural resources.

Currently, the Farm Bill has several components in it. At a massive 1,000 pages, it covers more than just agriculture. The graph below shows in detail, what exactly it is made up of.



The current Farm Bill was enacted in 2018. It will expire in 2023. The process of writing a new bill is quite involved. It all starts at the committee level. The following is a summary of the process:



As you can see, the Agriculture Committees play a big part in the writing of the Farm Bill. There are two key items to discuss re: Ag Committees. 1) how the makeup will influence the 2023 Farm Bill and 2) how producers can get involved with these committees.

It can be said that elections have consequences. The jury is still out on just how impactful the fall 2022 election will be on the making of the 2023 farm bill. One thing is certain though, it will impact it. One major change will be the swing in party majority in the House of Representatives from Democrats to Republicans. The House was controlled by Democrats prior the election, with a 220 to 212 majority. (3 vacancies pre-election) The House Ag Committee is currently made up of 27 Democrats and 23 Republicans. It is chaired by Congressman David Scott. As of the writing of this piece, Republicans are estimated to have a 231 to 213 majority when they are back in session in January. That being said, the new Ag Committee will most certainly look different, as nine current members either lost their seat or retired. There will also be a new Chairperson, which will be chosen by the majority party.

On the Senate side, things were less impacted by the mid term election. The Democrats will hold the Senate. Bloomberg reports that it is currently a 50 to 49 margin. (Note: Georgia runoff will determine if it is a 51 to 49 margin or 50/50 Senate with the tie breaker being the Vice President) The Senate Ag Committee was made up of 11 Democrats and 11 Republicans. It was chaired by Senator Debbie Stabenow (GA). The new Senate Ag Committee should, therefore, have little change in makeup due to Democrats maintaining the majority.

This new makeup of Committees will impact how they work together on a bi-partisan basis. New leadership will influence whose versions make it to the floor and what committee members will be at the table. In the meantime, committees have already begun taking input from the USDA, industry trade groups, farmer organizations and individual farmers/constituents. This is where we, as individuals, can have a say on what goes into the next Farm Bill. Besides contacting your local Congressman and Representatives, there are websites designated for each committee. [House Agriculture Committee](#); [Home | Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry](#) In those websites are avenues to give your input. The following are links taken off of those sites for feedback pages.

We want to hear from you! Send us your ideas and feedback on the Farm Bill by filling out [this form](#) or emailing us at farbillinput@ag.senate.gov.

[2023 Farm Bill Feedback | House Agriculture Committee](#) (See example following article)

<https://agriculture.house.gov/forms/form/?ID=9>

As you can see, the making of the Farm Bill is a very involved process. We as constituents have a say in the process and should exercise our voice in the process. One way, or another, it will be signed into law and will make it to the farmgate. Hopefully, it will done in the best interest of all United Prairie producers.

References

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. "[What is the Farm Bill?](#)"; Jacque Fatka "[5 things to know about the 2023 Farm Bill](#)"; Bloomberg "[Senate Elections Results, November 30, 2022](#)"; The Council of State Governments, "[The Farm Bill: What Will 2023 Bring?](#)"

Source: Congressional Budget Office/National Farmers Union

ATTACHMENT – EXAMPLE OF FEEDBACK PAGE



2023 FARM BILL FEEDBACK

An integral part of the oversight and review process for future Farm Bills is getting direct input from producers, stakeholders, and consumers on how various programs are working for them.

First Name*

Last Name*

Email Address*

Street 1*

Street 2*

City*

State*

Zip Code*

Which of the following best describes the type of work of the organization you are representing? (select one) *

- Not applicable (self)
- General Agricultural Organization
- Commodity Specific Organization
- Consumer Advocacy Organization

- Consumer Food Sales/Grocer
- Services Provider
- Technology
- Other

Are your comments on behalf of an organization? If so, what organization are you representing? (If you are representing yourself, please write "self")*

Which of the 2018 Farm Bill titles do you or your organization have the most interest in? (select all that apply) *

- 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

Which programs included in the 2018 Farm Bill do you think are performing well? (please explain) *

Which programs included in the 2018 Farm Bill do you think could be improved upon or should be reconsidered? (please explain) *

Are there any new programs or ideas that you or the organization that you represent would like to see considered for the 2023 Farm Bill? (please explain)*

Please include any additional information you feel is beneficial to your submission.

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