



THE NEXT FARM BILL MUST BE A CLIMATE BILL

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED FARMERS AND RANCHERS write to express our deep concerns about climate change impacts on agriculture in the United States and to call for funding climate solutions that address historical inequities and invest in our rural and agricultural communities.

Climate change presents a fundamental threat to our farms and ranches. Increasing challenges from extreme heat, drought, flooding, catastrophic wildfire, and rapidly shifting pests and diseases expand farm risks. We must act now to avoid even more devastating impacts, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, and embrace holistic, systems-based solutions. Investment in conservation and farm programs that increase the resilience of our operations and rural communities is essential.

The Agriculture Resilience Act (ARA) includes the provisions and investments we need in the 2023 Farm Bill to ensure the long-term viability of our farms and farm systems.

AGRICULTURE CAN DELIVER CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Our livelihoods depend on sustainably managing natural resources. We are committed to being part of the solution. By improving soil health and increasing soil organic matter on our farms and ranches, we can draw down atmospheric carbon levels. We can also reduce potent greenhouse gas emissions, like nitrous oxide and methane emissions, through diverse sustainable and organic strategies. The approaches laid out in the ARA are recognized by farmers and scientists throughout the world as critical climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. These include good soil health practices like cover crops, crop rotation, reduced tillage, improved grazing management, and perennial conservation plantings.

These agricultural climate solutions benefit our farms, our communities, and our environment. They increase farm profitability and resilience to weather extremes, improve air and water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. We should advance climate solutions that have these multiple benefits.

PUBLIC INVESTMENT IS CRITICAL

Farmers need support to be part of the climate solution. **Shifting to climate-friendly agricultural practices will require continued research, robust technical assistance, and financial incentives to reduce up-front costs.** Such resources are especially critical for small and medium-scale farmers and ranchers and farmers of color who often lack the economic security and access to resources to implement new methods. At the same time, farmers of color and small farmers have often led the way in developing climate-friendly farming practices and deserve support for this innovative work.

The adoption of climate-friendly farm practices offers substantial public benefit and requires public investment. The solutions to climate change outlined in the ARA will promote a competitive and fair agricultural economy, expand opportunities for family farms and rural communities, and provide greater food security.

WE SUPPORT THE ARA BECAUSE

- **Farmers need quality agricultural research on climate issues.** The ARA includes funding for climate and agriculture research, including critical on-farm research and farmer technical assistance through the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and the regional Climate Hubs.
- **Farmers need crop insurance options that support resilience and adaptation.** To that end, the ARA requires the Risk Management Agency to recognize all Natural Resources Conservation Service practices as good farming practices.
- **Beginning farmers and farmers of color need financial support for their expert work on building climate-friendly systems.** The ARA offers expanded assistance to farmers of color and beginning farmers.
- **Farmers need investments in climate-friendly systems like advanced grazing management, agroforestry, organic agriculture, improved manure management, soil health, composting, user-friendly on-farm renewable energy, and other practices that sequester carbon.** The ARA invests in these ecologically beneficial systems across a range of programs.

We cannot afford to wait. Climate change is an urgent challenge. Agriculture can and must be part of this country's bold climate action. Please act now to incorporate the Agriculture Resilience Act into the 2023 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

★ **CLICK TO ADD YOUR NAME** ★



farmers ON THE FRONTLINES

"In order to mitigate climate change, we need to financially incentivize small farmers growing healthy and safe food."

**CARIE STARR - CHEROKEE VALLEY BISON RANCH,
PERRY COUNTY, OHIO**



farmers ON THE FRONTLINES

"The farm bill has a chance to address and promote our distinct needs and values, and the ARA they are proposing represents what I and farmers like myself need and demand.

Time is running out for us to proactively make the changes to address climate change and soil and planet health."

**KRISTY BUSKIRK - CLAY HILL ORGANIC FARM,
TIFFIN, OHIO**



farmers ON THE FRONTLINES

"To a farmer, **climate change is more than the hotter, colder, wetter, and drier weather.** It's about the impacts on our soils, the soil food web, food nutrition, and what's left of our biodiverse habitats that support all living things, including, unfortunately, us.

For the regenerative farmer, climate change is impacting our living soils in many negative ways. We are witnessing the loss of our ability to manage things like building soil organic matter or soil calcium through deep-rooted and long-term crop rotations.

For the first time in my 50 years of working on the land, I have been losing ground on my soil's calcium levels—to the point I have had to start liming again. The same can be said for other soil and plant nutrients."

**JEFF DICKINSON - FARMER, EDUCATOR, AND
RESEARCHER, STRATFORD ECOLOGICAL CENTER,
DELAWARE, OHIO**



farmers ON THE FRONTLINES

"Climate change is actually happening. It doesn't matter which side of the political landscape you're on, we all need to agree it's going to be a very real issue that we have to deal with and our children need to deal with.

And it's very important that we do something about it."

SCOTT MYERS - WOODLYN ACRES FARM, WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO



farmers **LIKE YOU**

Let Congress know that you want support for your climate stewardship practices. Encourage them to provide farmers and ranchers like yourself with resources and tools that will enable agriculture to be a critical part of the climate solution.

**ADD YOUR NAME TO THE
NATIONAL CLIMATE FARMER
LETTER!**

CLICK HERE

