



2023 FARM BILL "MARKER BILL"

SUPPORTED BY THE OHIO ECOLOGICAL FOOD AND FARM ASSOCIATION

LOCAL FARMS AND FOOD ACT



S. 1205

Sponsored by Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown

H.R. 2723

Sponsored by Maine Representative Chellie Pingree

The Local Farms and Food Act (LFFA) will modify market programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The House version is a bipartisan bill. The Senate version only has Democratic sponsors currently.

The LFFA makes important reforms to improve the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). LAMP is an umbrella program created in the 2018 Farm Bill and forms the backbone of local and regional food systems development. It includes grant programs such as the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP), the Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG), and the Regional Food Systems Partnership Program (RFPP). These have been utilized by local advocates and organizations across the country.

The current goals of the program are to:

- Connect and cultivate regional food economies through public-private partnerships.
- Support the development of business plans, feasibility studies, and strategies for value-added agricultural production and local and regional food system infrastructure.
- Strengthen capacity and regional food systems development through community collaboration and expansion of mid-tier value chains.
- Improve income and economic opportunities for producers and food businesses through job creation.

The LFFA would improve equity and access to LAMP programs, streamline grants, promote geographic diversity, reduce matching funds, and allow some of the funding to support hard infrastructure. Importantly, it would provide a modest increase in funding from the current \$50 million up to \$75 million per year. The bill would also reauthorize the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and allow the possibility for more funding, and also reduce the matching funds required for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).

Specific examples include offering "turnkey grants" through FMLFPP, incentivizing food access (SNAP) usage at local markets, and providing resources for farmers' market manager staff time. Investing funding into local and regional food markets can support outreach and promotions, planning and technology, food hub feasibility, and general equipment needs.



OEFFA SUPPORTED MARKER BILLS LOCAL FARMS AND FOOD ACT



- The Local Farms and Food Act will catalyze new investments in rural and urban communities to expand local businesses, create jobs, and generate additional economic impact.
- The Local Farms and Food Act will increase infrastructure investments across rural and urban food economies, allowing more food and farm businesses to thrive.
- The Local Farms and Food Act ensures SNAP remains accessible in farmers' markets across the nation.
- The Local Farms and Food Act will create simpler grant applications for farmers' markets and local food operations to make it easier to take advantage of federal funding opportunities.
- The Local Farms and Food Act offers program reforms to remove barriers for applicants, increase infrastructural investments, and sustain impactful nutrition incentives through Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP), Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive, and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.
- The Local Farms and Food Act responds to lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and will help build our food system resilience from similar outside shocks.



TALKING POINTS

