



2023 FARM BILL "MARKER BILL"

SUPPORTED BY THE OHIO ECOLOGICAL FOOD AND FARM ASSOCIATION

SEEDS AND BREEDS FOR THE FUTURE ACT



S. 2023

Sponsored by Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin

The Seeds and Breeds for the Future Act promotes the development of ready-to-use, regionally adapted, and publically available seed varieties and animal breeds.

Public investment in U.S. agricultural R&D has declined by one-third over the last two decades. Research-driven legislation like the Seeds and Breeds for the Future Act is the foundation of a competitive agriculture industry. Investments in research are critical to keep our farmers thriving, especially in response to a changing climate.

The Seeds and Breeds for the Future Act would provide producers with the tools they need to confront drought, navigate varying growing conditions, and make use of plant and animal varieties that are better suited to their area. It would ensure American farmers have access to livestock breeds and seed varieties that are domestically produced and often result in significant increases in hardiness and yields.

The Seeds and Breeds for the Future Act would:

- Ensure that American farmers, producers, and businesses are the beneficiaries of USDA investments in the R&D of seeds and breeds.
- Create a \$75 million carveout in USDA research grants for the development of new public seeds and animal breeds.
- Promote efficient use of grants by establishing a coordinator and interagency working group to coordinate activities of the multiple research agencies.
- Ensure public accessibility of the developed plants and breeds.
- Outline priorities for competitive research grants (i.e., regionally adapted cultivars and animal breeds, and plants and animals bred for environmental resilience).

Over the past several decades, many universities have reduced—or eliminated—public plant and animal breeding programs, resulting in a shortage of regionally adapted crops and livestock. The Seeds and Breeds for the Future Act would make sure the research is keeping up with farmer innovations by providing them with seeds and breeds that support their domestic and international competitiveness and resilience to the climate crisis.



OEFFA SUPPORTED MARKER BILLS

SEEDS AND BREEDS FOR THE FUTURE ACT



- Regionally developed seed varieties often result in substantial increases in hardiness and yields.
- Lack of access to regionally adapted seeds and breeds makes our domestic agricultural sector vulnerable to disruption and threatens farmers' domestic and international competitiveness.
- Over the last two decades, public investment in U.S. agricultural R&D has declined by one-third.
- Research is the foundation of a competitive agriculture industry.
- Over the last several decades, publically funded agricultural research has led to the advancement of countless innovative techniques and practices that have helped farmers across the country increase their profitability and sustainability.
- Every dollar invested in publically funded agricultural research generates \$20 in economic activity.
- USDA-funded research should seek to optimize the balance among production, nutrition security, environmental services, and socio-economic sustainability.



TALKING POINTS

