

2023 FARM BILL WEEK OF ACTION



Promoting Soil Health and Climate Resilience through Conservation Policy



**OEFFA
POLICY**

Essential for our future

OEFFA members believe that we need to invest in the health of our soil and build climate resilience through conservation policy in the 2023 Farm Bill.

When federal programs invest in—rather than exploit—our shared and finite resources, **we build resilience necessary for long-term agricultural sustainability.**

One year since the IRA was passed

It's been a year since the historic passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This was the **largest federal climate investment in history** and a monumental contribution to support America's farmers and ranchers.

It is critical for Congress to follow through and protect IRA funding and agriculture conservation. **This is our #1 priority for the 2023 Farm Bill.**

Talking points:

1

Ohio farmers are experiencing flooded fields, heat stress on crops and livestock, and property damage from severe weather. **Impacts of the climate crisis can be felt now** and promoting investments in sustainable agriculture is critical to systems-based solutions.

2

Current agricultural practices cause about 10 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. When soil is left bare without roots to hold it in place, erosion causes carbon to be released into our atmosphere. **Soil health practices help to sequester carbon in the soil, while building the resilience farmers need** to adapt to more frequent weather extremes and provide a stable food supply for our communities. (Source: [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#))

3

Because **climate solutions take all of us working together**, acting as good neighbors, and acknowledging our shared responsibility to future generations, we need investments that make it easier for all farmers to be good stewards of the land.

4

The IRA provided \$850 million to conservation efforts in 2023, with another \$19 billion to come. **It is critical for Congress to follow through for farmers and protect agriculture conservation in the 2023 Farm Bill within Title II.** We must secure conservation funding in the baseline mandatory funding.

5

The IRA makes investments in federal programs to reduce U.S. carbon emissions by roughly 40% by 2030. **The best way to protect and provide for farm conservation in the farm bill is to ensure that IRA funds are moved into Title II.**

Soil Health and Climate Resilience MARKER BILLS



Agriculture Resilience Act (ARA)

S. 1016, H.R. 1840

Farming has always been a risky business—but with extreme weather events and trade wars, this is especially true today. The ARA would set a net-zero goal for agriculture by 2040 and invest in research, soil health, farmland preservation and viability, pasture-based livestock, on-farm renewable energy, and food loss and waste to keep farmers on the land, and in business. *Cosponsored by OH Sen. Sherrod Brown*

State Assistance for Soil Health

***Not yet introduced**

There have been tremendous achievements in science, research, and education since the Dust Bowl nearly 100 years ago. Still, many farmers aren't supported to implement soil health practices and share their experiences with other farmers. State Assistance for Soil Health would change that by providing the tools, education, and funding needed to promote good soil health practices among America's farmers and ranchers.

Zero Food Waste Act

S. 177, H.R. 652

Americans waste at least 40 percent of the food they purchase and, when it goes to landfill, food waste produces methane emissions—a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide. This bill would reduce the environmental impact of wasted food by investing in solutions that prevent food waste and developing composting infrastructure, while also helping to divert it to individuals in need of food.

Cultivating Organic Matter through the Promotion of Sustainable Techniques (COMPOST) Act

S. 2388, H.R. 651

Local and tribal governments have increasingly turned to solutions to combat the environmental impact of food waste and this legislation would support their efforts by adding composting as a conservation practice in USDA programs and creating new grant and loan opportunities for composting infrastructure projects.

Agrivoltaics Research and Demonstration Act of 2023

S. 1778

Using solar panels on agricultural land is a small, but growing, market for clean energy deployment. It's also a solution for agricultural producers wanting to diversify their income. This bipartisan legislation would require USDA to carry out a study that reviews research related to agrivoltaic systems and establish a research and demonstration network to investigate how agrivoltaics can increase agricultural productivity and profitability, and ultimately help keep farmland in production and strengthen rural economies.

Small Farm Conservation Act

S. 2180

Paperwork burdens and inequitable application assessments often prevent small and beginning farmers from accessing EQIP funding and support. This bill would streamline access to federal conservation assistance for small farm businesses, establish an EQIP subprogram tailored to small farms and ranches, and create a bonus payment for farms <50 acres employing soil health practices.

Maintaining IRA Investments



It is critical for Congress to follow through for farmers and protect agriculture conservation in the 2023 Farm Bill within Title II. **This is our #1 priority for the new farm bill.**

Learn more [here](#).



Visit our [2023 Farm Bill Platform](#) to learn more about why we need to promote soil health and climate resilience through conservation policy

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

about prioritizing soil health and conservation in the 2023 Farm Bill

Phone Script:

Good [morning/afternoon/evening],

My name is _____. I am a [State] resident (if calling the Senate) **OR** I live in the Congressman/Congresswoman's district (if calling a member of the House). I'm calling as a member of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association in regard to the 2023 Farm Bill.

I am concerned about _____ (i.e., soil health and farm resilience). This issue is important to me because _____. [Senate/House Bill ###] addresses the issue by **include 2-3 of the above talking points**. Please ask the [Senator/Congressperson] to support this legislation. The member will be contributing to farmer viability, healthy local food economies, and food system resilience (pick and choose) by ensuring these measures make it into the final farm bill.

Social Media:

Captions:

- @legislator, please follow through to protect IRA funding within Title II of the farm bill! Support the future of farming by securing conservation funding in the baseline mandatory funding.
- The 2023 Farm Bill can help promote farmer resilience! @legislator, protecting IRA funding and investing in soil health can support America's farmers and strengthen our food system.
- @legislator, investing in soil = investing in food for the future. Soil health must be centered in the 2023 Farm Bill.

Hashtags:

#climatefarmbill #oeffapolicy #farmers4climate #climateactionnow #2023FarmBill #InflationReductionAct #soilhealth

Downloadable graphic [here](#). 



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