

2023 FARM BILL WEEK OF ACTION



Addressing Consolidation in the Food and Agriculture System



**OEFFA
POLICY**

Essential for our future

OEFFA members believe that agricultural consolidation disadvantages family farmers and the diverse regional food systems essential for a resilient future.

Strong markets are inclusive and transparent, recognize natural limits, and benefit regional and diverse communities. We can shape markets and corporations to be tools for the use and benefit of all.

Historic opportunity to make change

Currently, the markets for food and agriculture are highly consolidated. A small number of corporations own and control many aspects of farming, seed, processing, and retail.

That does not benefit farmers, who, **for each dollar spent on food receive less than 15 cents.** Fortunately, addressing consolidation is a bipartisan priority and there are a number of ideas already put into bills that can become a part of the final farm bill language.

Talking points:

1

The current level of concentration limits opportunities for innovation and resilience. **Small to mid-scale farmers need more support than mega-farms.** Create a more level playing field in this farm bill.

2

Farmers should not have to pay into programs that work against their best interests. The new farm bill can prevent checkoff programs from contracting with organizations that do political advocacy or have conflicts of interest. Make sure checkoff programs publish their budgets and disbursements and undergo periodic audits.

3

The Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program is intended to support small and diversified farmers, **but fewer and fewer farmers are using it because of paperwork burdens and a lack of information.** Consider making critical reforms to this important program so that more farmers can make use of it.

4

Crop insurance should work for all farmers—not just large commodity growers. **Please make sure that agents are not paid based on the policy value and that small farmers have access to risk protection.**

5

Common sense payment limits can ensure that government assistance reaches more farmers who need it, **not just the largest farms.** Using an AGI means test to reduce crop insurance subsidies by 15 percent would impact just one percent of high-income farmers. (Source: [U.S. Government Accountability Office](#))



Farm Program Integrity Act of 2023

S. 2610

This bill would provide a hard financial cap on commodity subsidies of \$125,000 for an individual and \$250,000 for any one farm operation. It defines those as “actively engaged in farming” to mean individuals who provide management and labor (previously it could just mean management). *Sponsored by OH Sen. Sherrod Brown*

Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act

S. 557, H.R. 1249

Farmers are forced to pay into mandatory “check-off” programs to promote commodities. These promotion programs often advocate against their best interests. This legislation would prohibit conflicts of interest, and provide greater transparency and accountability for how checkoff funds are used.

Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program Improvement Act

S. 2598

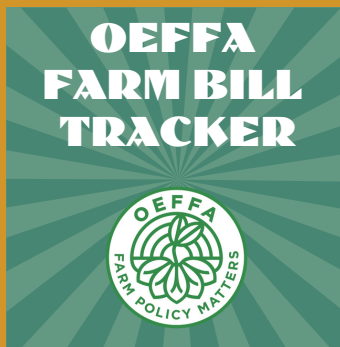
What often happens with our farming system is that current, highly subsidized insurance policies cover major commodities and farmers grow for the insurance program—more so than for what is best for the land, the market, or the public. Whole Farm is the only insurance program available to every farmer in every county of the country, while also incentivizing diversity. This bill will make sure the program works for farmers by reducing some of the paperwork burden, encouraging the use of resource-conserving crop rotations, and including a greater diversification discount.

Insuring Fairness for Family Farmers Act of 2023

S. 2421, H.R. 4804

Crop insurance is a critical tool to protect farmers against bad weather, bad markets, and more, but it has focused mostly on corn, soy, wheat, cotton, and rice for really large farms—in part, because insurance companies and their agents get paid based on the cost of the policy. Larger farms have larger premiums, making it more profitable to seek out and write policies for bigger farms. This bill would establish safeguards on how these payments are calculated and incentivize coverage for smaller and newer farms along with those that grow fruits and vegetables with no crop-specific insurance options.

Stay up-to-date on relevant marker bills by checking out our [Farm Bill Tracker](#).



Visit our [2023 Farm Bill Platform](#) to learn more about why we need to combat consolidation in the food and agricultural system.

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

about addressing consolidation in the food and agriculture system

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., local economies and community health). 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, did you know that the largest 20% of farms receive more than 75% of subsidies? Please write a new farm bill that includes means testing for farmer subsidies!
- Consolidation limits opportunities for next-generation farmers. @legislator, help create a level playing field that supports all farmers.
- @legislator, help small to mid-scale farmers survive and thrive by providing crop insurance that is fair and works for them!

Hashtags:

#oeffapolicy #2023FarmBill #consolidation #bigag #transparentmarkets #checkoffs #OFFact #smallfarmer #familyfarmers #familyfarms #cropinsurance

Downloadable graphic [here](#).



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