

2023 FARM BILL WEEK OF ACTION



Increasing Investments in Local and Regional Food Systems



**OEFFA
POLICY**

Essential for our future

OEFFA members believe that making transformative investments in diverse, local, and regional food systems is essential for our future.

We support federal programs that promote small to mid-scale farmers and **empower them to build healthy communities that are powerful, resilient, and sustaining**. Farm bill investments should strengthen local supply chains and regional processing facilities, and support equitable food access.

Shaping every bite of food

From conservation to rural development, the farm bill influences many aspects of our food and farming systems.

The farm bill is a vehicle to strengthen local and regional food systems and encompasses programs like the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLPP) and nutrition incentive programs that increase healthy food access for lower-income families.

Talking points:

1

State networks of food banks and farmers' markets are immense, but **they need help to continue to do their good work**. By receiving increased financial assistance, these vital operations can do so much more to influence access to local, healthy foods and increase the profitability of small to mid-scale farmers.

2

It supports everyone to cultivate regional food commodities, support local food system infrastructure, strengthen capacity for community collaboration, and improve economic opportunities for local producers and food businesses.

3

Access to local, fresh, nutrient-dense food is foundational to community health. When federal programs invest in rural and urban food economies, our **communities become healthier, stronger, and more resilient** and equitable.

4

Without growing support for community local infrastructure, **Ohio's family farmers and food businesses will continue to disappear** from our communities, cutting off an important source of local food.

5

The pandemic demonstrated the need for investing in resilient food systems. We must prioritize funding for value-chain coordination, infrastructure, and nutrition incentive programs connecting eaters to locally grown food.

6

Farmers who feed communities need realistic access to meat processing facilities. We have a **growing demand for grass-fed and organic meat products** and hardly anywhere for that processing to happen.

Local and Regional Food Systems MARKER BILLS



Local Farms and Food Act

S. 1205, H.R. 2723

There is inequitable access to the suite of Local Agriculture Market Programs (LAMP) through the USDA. This piece of legislation would expand the reach of impactful nutrition incentives through programs like GusNIP and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program by making it easier for producers and organizations to access funding that helps them improve healthy food access for their communities. *Sponsored by OH Sen. Sherrod Brown*

Farmers' Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act of 2023

H.R. 2378

This bill would increase financial assistance for farmers' markets and farmers' market nutrition programs. Improving access to healthy foods, increasing local agricultural production through in-house food bank production, and local farmer contracting are important in a resilient and sustainable food system that we can rely on in the future.

Sponsored by OH Rep. Marcy Kaptur

Strengthening Local Meat Processing Act

S. 354, H.R. 945

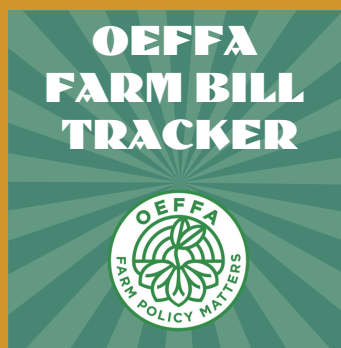
We must increase investments in economic development by addressing livestock supply chain issues. As the need for small meat and poultry processing plants grows, this bill will support training programs that bolster the resilience of communities and their food systems. *Cosponsored by OH Sen. Sherrod Brown*

Fresh Produce Procurement Reform Act

*** Not yet introduced**

This piece of legislation will prioritize historically underserved farmers for the USDA to procure their fresh produce for schools, community organizations, and food pantries. This is not yet introduced, but these pieces must be prioritized in the next farm bill to keep our food access local and equitable.

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 continued investment into local and regional food systems.

CONTACTING YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

about investing in local and regional food systems

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, I am for local farmers, local healthy food, and local access. Keep our money in our communities.
- @legislator, do you remember food scarcity at the height of COVID-19? I do. Let's fix our food resiliency for the future by supporting local producers.
- One out of every seven jobs in Ohio is in agriculture. @legislator, do your part to strengthen Ohio's economy by supporting our local and regional food systems.

Hashtags:

#oeffapolicy #knowyourfarmer #locallygrown #eatlocal #supportlocal #ohiostrong #localfood #supportocal #ohiogrown #ohiofarmers

Downloadable graphic [here](#).



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