



# 2023 FARM BILL

PRIORITIES OF THE OHIO ECOLOGICAL FOOD AND FARM ASSOCIATION

## IRA AUGUST 2023 UPDATE



### Inflation Reduction Act

Signed into law by President Biden on August 16, 2022

**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. The IRA provided \$850 million to conservation efforts in 2023, with another \$19 billion to come.**

The IRA has supported U.S. conservation efforts through investments of:

- Nearly \$8.5 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Almost \$5 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- \$1.4 billion for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- \$1 billion for conservation technical assistance
- \$300 million for carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions quantification

These conservation programs are proven to protect soil, wildlife, water, and farms for future generations. With more applicants than available funding, they are also routinely oversubscribed. Farmers, ranchers, foresters, and landowners are ready to fight climate change through conservation.

**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.**

By maintaining IRA investments, Congress can ensure that the needs of farmers and society are being met. Ohio fully utilizes Conservation Stewardship Program funding every year and goes back to the federal government to secure additional CSP funds. We need to enroll as many farms and ranches as possible in holistic systems of practice to address more frequent extreme weather events and help farmers build the resiliency of their operations. Fulfilling our goals of climate mitigation and adaptation must be approached with an eye to broader and longer-term ecological improvements of farming systems that simultaneously address water quality, soil health, wildlife diversity, and community health.

**This is our #1 priority for the 2023 Farm Bill. IRA funding has made waves of positive change in the agricultural world, and we have so much more to go!**



## OEFFA 2023 FARM BILL PRIORITIES

# INFLATION REDUCTION ACT



- The IRA makes investments in federal programs to reduce U.S. carbon emissions by roughly 40% by 2030.
- The IRA funds four key conservation programs: the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
- In total, the IRA invests \$369 billion in energy security and climate change.
- In addition to expanding climate-smart agriculture and conservation, the IRA also increases access to lower-cost clean energy, improves energy efficiency, protects communities from increasing risks of wildfire and extreme heat, supports rural communities and their infrastructure needs, and creates better health outcomes for American citizens.
- The best way to protect and provide for farm conservation in the 2023 Farm Bill is to ensure that IRA funds are moved into Title II Conservation.



## TALKING POINTS

