



# 2024 FARM BILL UPDATE

# WELCOME

Thank you for taking time with us today to advocate for farm bill priorities



Introductions – name, location, personal pronouns

Icebreaker – If you were a farm animal, which would you be?

(In the chat)







# AGENDA

- Why we are here today, update on the farm bill
- OEFFA's Farm Bill Platform and Priorities
- Collective action
- Open space – questions and commitments



# WHAT IS THE FARM BILL?

Context and Timing



**The farm bill shapes virtually every aspect of the U.S. food and agricultural system—what kind of food farmers grow, how it is grown, how much it costs, who has access to land and resources to farm, and what kind of farms are likely to succeed.**



**Farm Bill Titles: 12 in total!**

# THE 2018 FARM BILL IS MORE THAN 850 PAGES LONG



Commodities, Conservation,  
Trade, Nutrition, Credit, Rural  
Development, Research, Forestry, Energy,  
Horticulture, Crop Insurance, Miscellaneous





# TIMELINE

## Overall update:

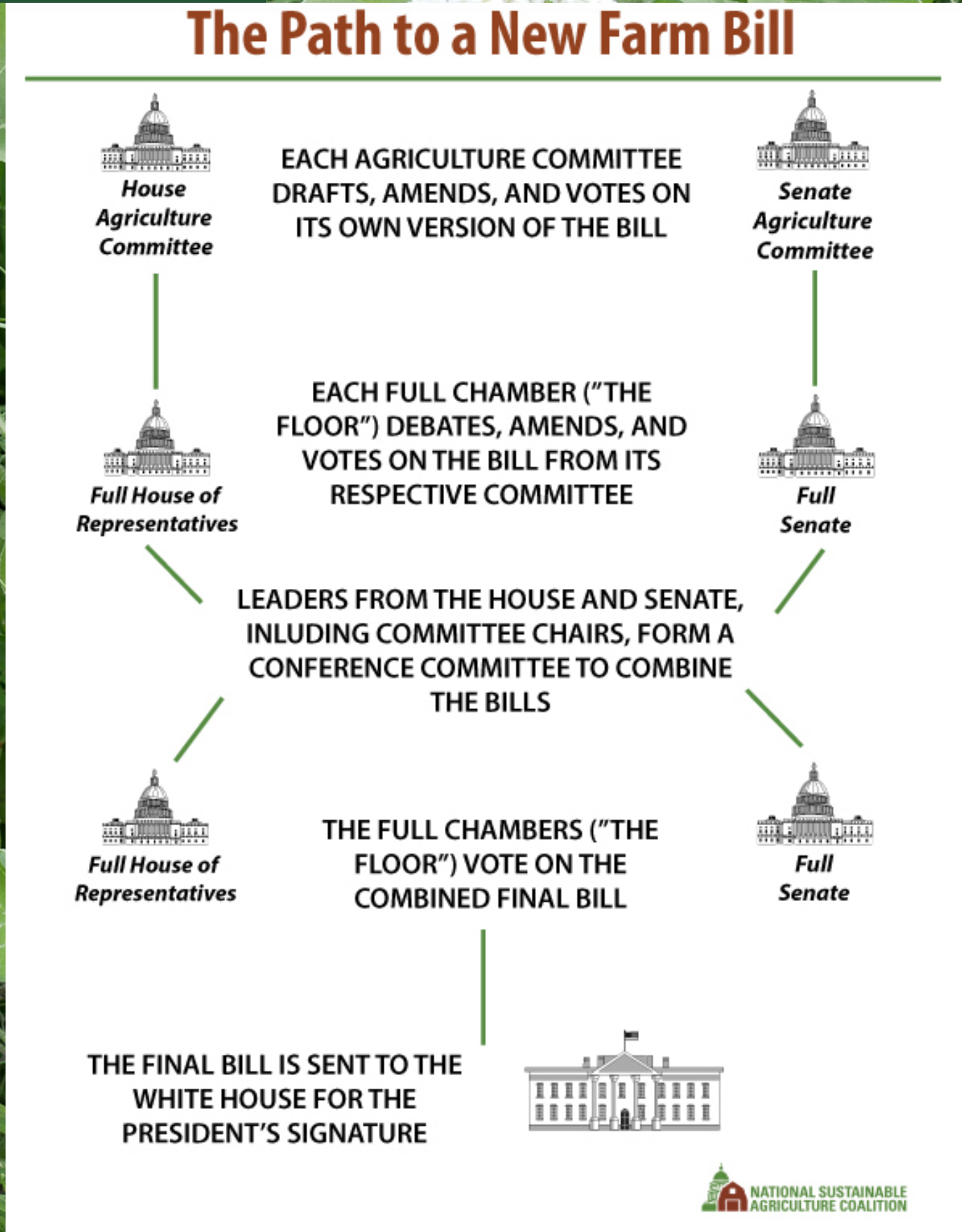
- Much of the bill is drafted but remains under construction
- Money (or lack thereof) remains the main hang-up (IRA and nutrition funds)
- Bipartisanship is a must (will have to have if we have a farm bill)

## 2024 looking forward:

- March - June: ~42 working days from March - June 28th
- May: Late spring window for action (have said 3 consecutive weeks needed to draft content)
- May: Congressional Budget Office numbers - We are at risk of getting new budget numbers if they don't move soon (at least committee mark-up)
- July - November: Election time, don't expect much of anything to move during this time.
- September 30th: Date 2018 Farm Bill expires with extension

## Concerns:

- We don't know the political environment in 2025
- Direct impact on long-term conservation funding and stranded programs
- Less stability (outdated programs): Lessons of the pandemic, racial equity, climate change





# OEFFA'S FARM BILL PLATFORM:

1. Promoting Soil Health and Climate Resilience Through Conservation Policy
2. Addressing Consolidation in the Food and Agriculture System
3. Investing in Organic and Sustainable Research
4. Providing More Support for Beginning and BIPOC Farmers
5. Increasing Investments in Local and Regional Food Systems

**"BUILD A SAFETY NET THAT  
PROTECTS OUR SMALL FARMS"  
- SENATOR STABENOW**





# TOP PRIORITIES AND WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

## 1. IRA funding

- a. The Inflation Reduction Act provides much-needed resources for conservation programs that are highly oversubscribed.
- b. This funding must stay in Title II (conservation) of the farm bill and not be stripped to prop up unneeded reference price programs.
  - i. *(Pillar: Climate and Consolidation)*

## 2. Leveling the playing field

- a. All farmers should have access to grant programs, crop insurance, and all USDA entities.
- b. Discrimination by the USDA is continuing to happen
  - i. *(Pillar: Consolidation and Beginning and BIPOC farmers)*





# TOP PRIORITIES AND WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

## 3. Support for farmers

a. Help producers by funding organic programs such as cost share, technical assistance, and market access.

i. *(Pillar: Organics)*

## 4. Nutrition funding

a. We don't need less funding here, we need more! Funding for nutrition programs should not be taken to prop up big ag

i. *(Pillar: Local and Regional Food Systems and Consolidation)*





**IF WE DON'T  
ENGAGE, THEY KEEP  
THEIR POWER.**





# CALL SCRIPT



Hello, My name is \_\_\_ and I am a constituent in \_\_\_'s district. I would like to ask the Congress(wo)man to work to pass the next farm bill this year, in 2024. If we continue with the same 2018 Farm Bill with more extensions, we will have to fight for funding that is not in the baseline like organic cost share and support for urban agriculture. Outdated funding structures and programs jeopardize the resilience of our food system. The pandemic centered the importance of racial equity, strong local food systems, and climate-smart practices that are all long standing necessities. We need a new farm bill that reflects our modern needs, not those of 6 years ago. Please work with your colleagues to pass the next farm bill as soon as possible. Thank you for receiving my comment.

[Find your member of Congress and their contact information here.](#)





**WHAT  
YOU  
CAN DO  
GOING  
FORWARD!**



**MAKE A CALL TO YOUR  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

[Video instruction](#)

**SUBMIT A COMMENT ONLINE**

[Video instruction](#)

**TAG YOUR MEMBERS OF  
CONGRESS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

[Video instruction](#)



# RESOURCES



[PROMOTE SOIL HEALTH AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH CONSERVATION POLICY](#)

[ADDRESS CONSOLIDATION IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEM](#)

[INVEST IN ORGANIC AND SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH](#)

[PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING AND BIPOC FARMERS](#)

[INCREASE INVESTMENT IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS](#)

[FARM BILL MARKER BILL TRACKER](#)



# YOUR STORY IS IMPORTANT!

No matter your background  
or experiences, your  
members of Congress want to  
hear from you!



**OEFFA  
POLICY**



**THANK YOU FOR  
JOINING US!  
POLICY@OEFFA.ORG**

