

# The Farm Bill & 2024 Election Year

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# SAFSF Overview

SAFSF is the leading national philanthropy serving organization for funders seeking to drive change in support of just and sustainable food and agriculture systems.

Members include endowed and self-funded foundations and investors, as well as certain types of intermediaries, such as community development finance institutions (CDFIs), community foundations, funding collaboratives, and regranteeing organizations.

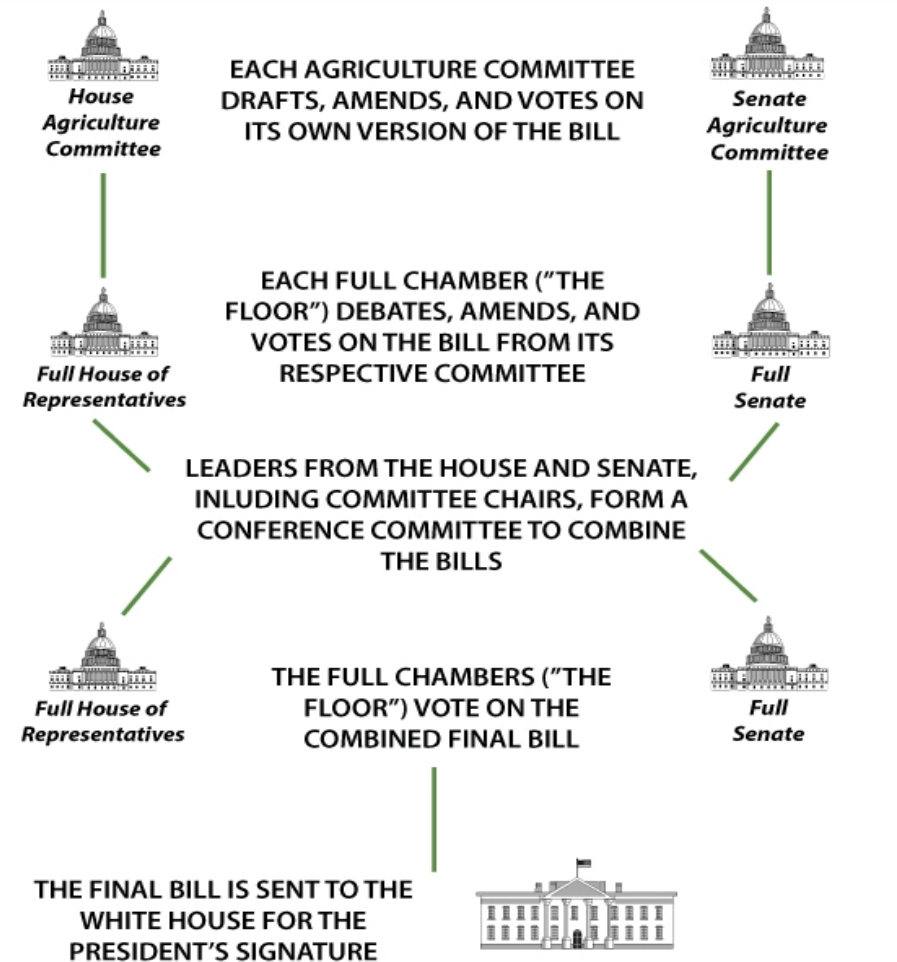
**Vision:** All resources invested in food and agriculture systems enhance our collective well-being.

**Values: Collaboration, equity, respect, stewardship, and integrity** guide our decision-making process in all our work.

# What is the Farm Bill?

- The farm bill is the most significant piece of legislation Congress enacts that has a direct impact on farming livelihoods, how food is produced, what kinds of foods are grown, and how economically distressed families eat
- The farm bill is typically renewed about every five years
  - **Since the 1930s, 18 farm bills have been enacted** (2018, 2014, 2008, 2002, 1996, 1990, 1985, 1981, 1977, 1973, 1970, 1965, 1956, 1954, 1949, 1948, 1938, and 1933).

## The Path to a New Farm Bill



# What does the Farm Bill include (and what does it not)?

## IN THE FARM BILL

- Title I - Commodity Programs
- **Title II - Conservation**
- Title III - Trade
- **Title IV - Nutrition**
- Title V - Credit
- Title VI - Rural Development
- Title VII - Research, Extension, and Related Matters
- Title VIII - Forestry
- Title IX - Energy
- Title X - Horticulture
- Title XI - Crop Insurance
- Title XII - Miscellaneous

## NOT IN THE FARM BILL

- Farm and food worker rights and protections
- Public land grazing rights
- Irrigation water rights
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food safety
- Renewable fuel standards
- Tax issues
- School meal programs
- The Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) program
- Some pesticide laws
- The Clean Water Act
- The Clean Air Act

# Who in Congress writes the Farm Bill?

- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- House Committee on Agriculture



# 2018 Farm Bill Expiration and Extension

- The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the “farm bill”) expired on October 1, 2023
- On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024, which extended the 2018 Farm Bill
- This extension allows authorized programs to continue **through September 30, 2024** (the end of Fiscal Year 2024)

NOVEMBER 12TH, 2023

## Stabenow, Boozman, Thompson, Scott Statement on Farm Bill Extension

WASHINGTON—The four leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees released the following statement on a Farm Bill extension:

“As negotiations on funding the government progress, we were able to come together to avoid a lapse in funding for critical agricultural programs and provide certainty to producers. This extension is in no way a substitute for passing a 5-year Farm Bill and we remain committed to working together to get it done next year.”



# Farm Bill Equity Considerations

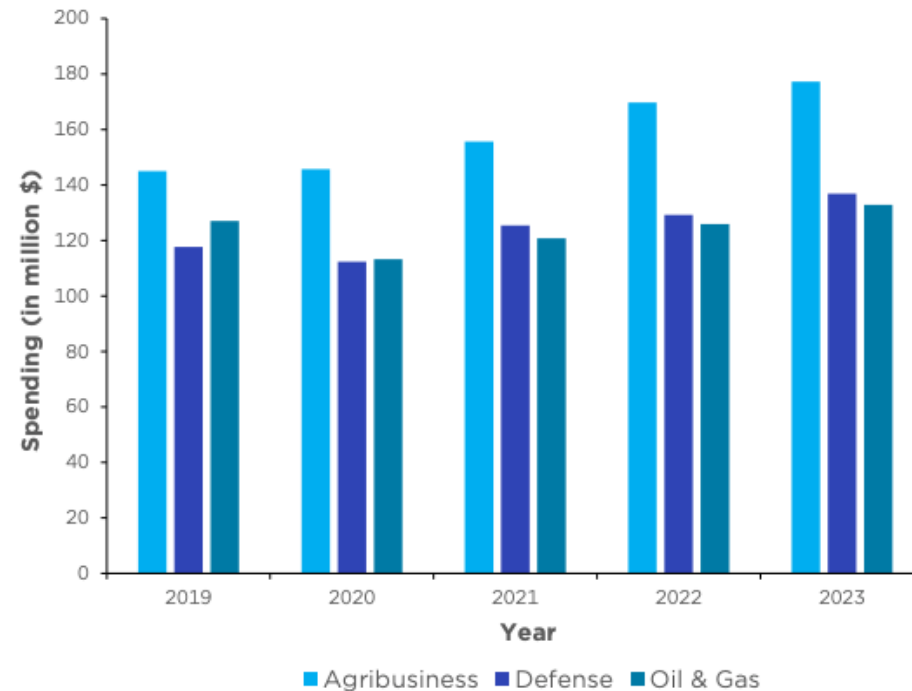
- **Food and Nutrition Security:** Funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- **Climate change:** IRA Funding allocated for USDA conservation programs
- **Local Food:** Markets, Supply Chains and Access
- **Credit and land access for BIPOC and emerging farmers**
- **Improving overall program accessibility**



# Current Farm Bill Reauthorization Policy Opportunities for Funders

- Build relationships with policymakers (especially on the agriculture and agriculture appropriations committees)
- Provide long-term, flexible funding for grantees to engage in farm bill advocacy AND implementation
- Make federal funding more accessible through technical assistance, bridge loans, etc.

Figure 1. Agribusiness Interests Lobby More Than Defense, Oil and Gas



Federal lobbying by corporations and other actors in the agribusiness industry exceeds that of two other industries well known for lobbying—the defense sector and the oil and gas industry—and the growth of agribusiness lobbying in recent years has outpaced that of those other industries.

SOURCE: OpenSecrets, n.d.b.



# Equitable Funding in Action: Farm Bill Grassroots Capacity Building Project

## Components Include:

- **Rapid Response Fund** that provides small grants to support mobilizing activities
- **Capacity Building Fund** that provides financial resources and training to Black, Indigenous, and organizations of color that would like to increase their involvement in policy advocacy
- **Priority States Fund** that focuses on advocacy in states with key agricultural policymakers (Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Arkansas)



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# SAFSF's Ongoing Farm Bill and Federal Policy Engagement

- **2023 Hill Day**
  - SAFSF Federal Policy Principles
  - Meetings with House and Senate Agriculture Committees and 33 Congressional offices
- **Uplifting Farm Bill Policy Platforms**
  - Webinar series featuring grassroots organizations and their policy platforms
- **Policy Funding Skill Building**
  - Virtual programming series with Bolder Advocacy
- **Partnership development with NRCS (implementation)**
  - Increasing accessibility among historically underserved producers to NRCS farm bill conservation programs



# So, Congress passes a Farm Bill... then what?

- **Appropriations process**
  - Allocating discretionary resources to farm bill programs
- **Rulemaking process**
  - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) writes the rules for how farm bill programs are implemented.
  - NOTE: Funders can influence the rulemaking process without crossing the lobbying line.
- **Program evaluation**

## Key takeaway

The farm bill development process is never truly “over,” but rather always ongoing. **It is always a good time for funders to get involved and uplift the voices of their grantees.**



# **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE** *and* **FOOD SYSTEMS FUNDERS**

## **Interested in joining?**

Visit [SAFSF's website](https://safsf.org) or reach out to SAFSF Senior Member Associate [Holly Enowski](#) with any questions about membership, engagement, or partnership with SAFSF

[safsf.org](https://safsf.org)