TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE AND ADVANCING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS THROUGH THE 2023 FARM BILL

Nancy Hirshberg
Hirshberg Strategic
Moderator

Aviva Paley
National Young Farmers Coalition

Aria McLauchlan
Land Core

Matt Dillon
Risk to Resilience (R2R) Strategy

Arohi Sharma
NRDC

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Farm Bill Basics

What is the Farm Bill?

Largest piece of agricultural legislation in the country—sets the stage for future federal investments in nutrition, food, and farming (funding, research, programmatic/grants, regulatory infrastructure). States also get funding from the Farm Bill.

95% of US cropland is covered by the Federal Crop Insurance Program—which speaks to the reach of the Farm Bill.

Usually passed every 5 years. Last one in 2018, with projected costs totaling ~ $428 billion.

Must pass legislation…which means lots of people weigh in with proposals and it's an intentionally bipartisan effort.

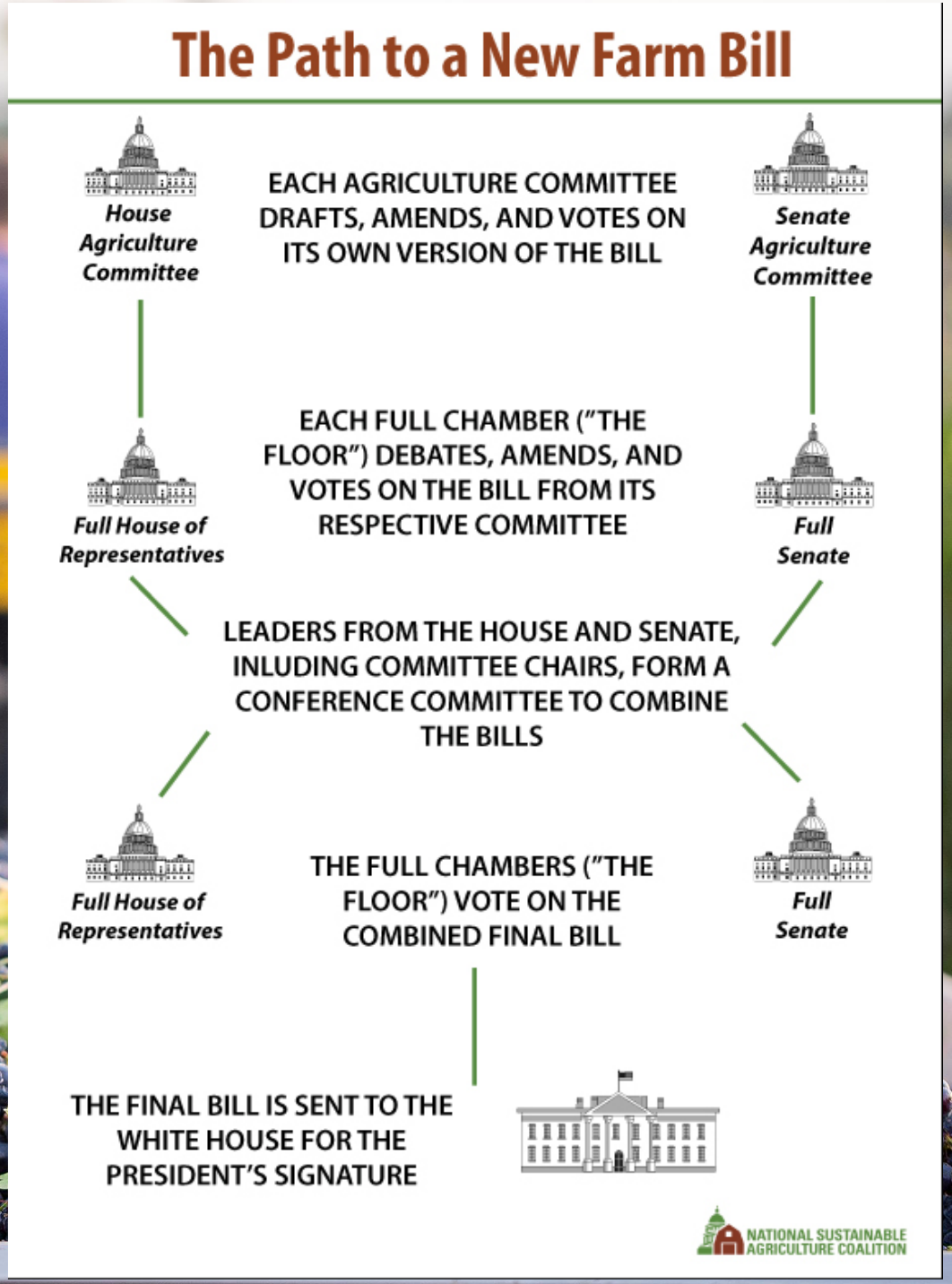
Farm Bill needs to be reauthorized this year, 2023.

What's in the Farm Bill?

12 titles that cover an array of food and farming issues:

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

How Does Congress Negotiate & Pass the Farm Bill?



How is Farm Bill Implemented?

Once the Farm Bill is signed into law, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has the responsibility for developing the rules to implement the Farm Bill. This opens the door for advocacy at the Agency level. Rules are published publicly, usually through Federal Register Notices, and are open for public comment anywhere between 30-90 days.

Authorizing v. Appropriating

The Farm Bill AUTHORIZES money for the programs in the bill. A separate process, known as "Appropriations" is how programs actually get funded. Authorizing and appropriating occur on different timelines. Farm Bill reauthorization happens every 5 years, appropriations are negotiated annually, which means there are multiple opportunities for policy-focused organizations to advocate for programs they care about.

Ways to Advocate

1

ENGAGE

Determine your priorities and call your elected officials.

2

EDUCATE

Engage and meet w/Agency and Dept. staff re: implementation.

3

PARTICIPATE

Join coalitions that represent your interests.

4

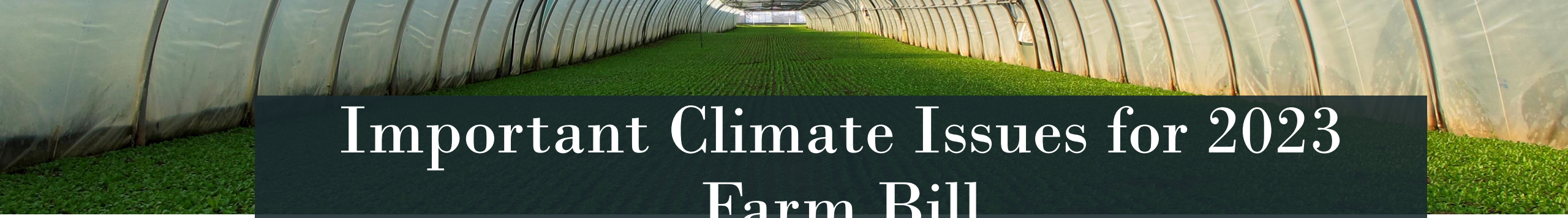
SUPPORT

Support advocacy groups whose values and ideas align with your own.

5

SIGN-ON

Join specific campaigns through sign on letters or other calls to action…



Important Climate Issues for 2023 Farm Bill

PROTECT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Increase funding for and access to conservation programs that help farmers use climate beneficial practices including those that improve soil health, reduce GHGs, increase water conservation & efficiency, and create habitat.

REFORM FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM

Reform crop insurance to reward farmers for using practices that improve soil health and reduce their on-farm risk, i.e., through the COVER Act, which would offer farmers who plant cover crops a $5-per-acre savings on their crop insurance.

INCREASE ACCESS TO LAND

Increase access to productive farmland, especially for black and historically underserved producers as well as new and young farmers.

INCREASE SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Prioritize ecosystem-based research that helps growers adapt to and mitigate climate change. Support & increase Indigenous-led research. Develop quantification tools that are based in science and easily accessible to growers.

REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Reform food labeling programs and improve food recovery and donation programs to reduce food waste and related emissions. Scale up composting—including the processing and distribution of finished compost to farms.

INCREASE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Provide technical assistance to growers wanting to transition to organic agriculture as a climate solution. Include organic in new climate-smart agriculture programs at USDA.

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR AGROFORESTRY

Fully fund and support the National Agroforestry Center, which coordinates agroforestry work across the country and also provides technical assistance.

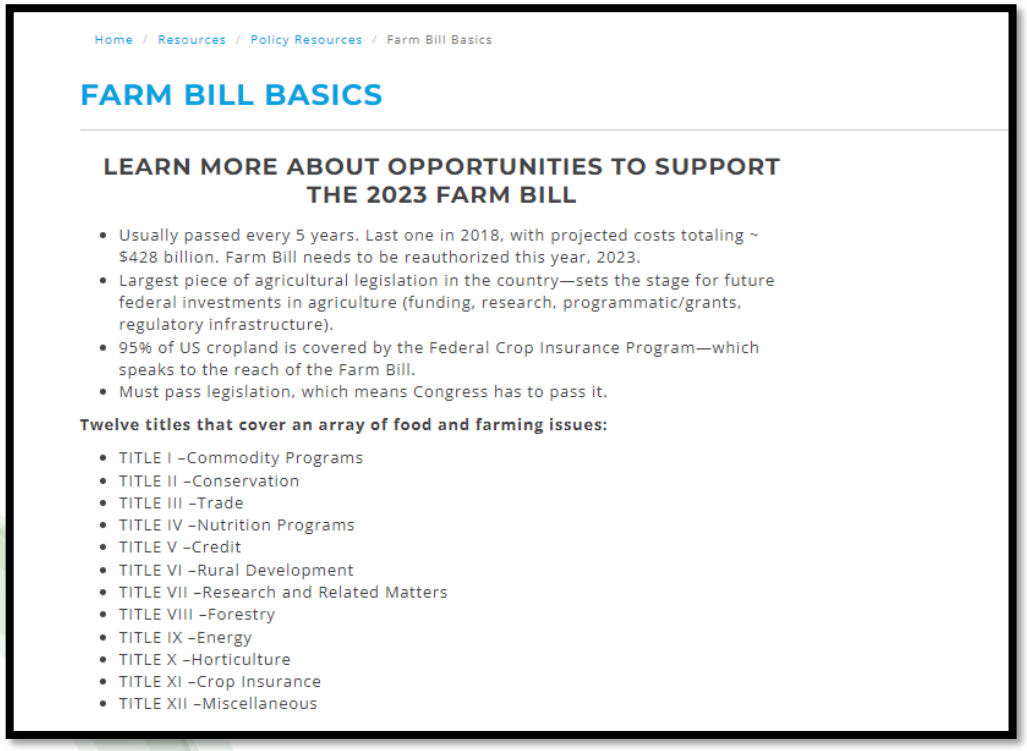
CASH FLOW FOR CONSERVATION

Give all FSA borrowers (e.g. farmers) the ability to defer repayment of loans when they invest in soil conservation practices.

Acronyms

IRA	INFLATION REDUCTION ACT
EQIP	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
NRCS	NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
FSA	FARM SERVICES AGENCY
CRP	CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM
CSP	CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
FCIP	FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM
CIG	CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT
RMA	RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FARM BILL BASICS: LEARN MORE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE 2023 FARM BILL



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FARM BILL BASICS

LEARN MORE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE 2023 FARM BILL

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SCAN ME

You can find the document at:
climatecollaborative.com/farm_bill_basics

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