

FAIR FARM BILL

POLICY HANDBOOK

Recommendations toward breaking the mold of past farm bills to create a more fair, inclusive, and competitive food and agriculture system.



Farm Action

Published on May 19, 2022

Updated on October 2, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS



[Introduction](#)

[Definition of Terms](#)

[Fair Farm Bill at a Glance](#)

[Pillar One: Food, Not Feed](#)

- Key Goal: [Stop the abuse of commodity checkoff programs.](#)
- Key Goal: [Shift funding and programs away from commodity feed crops and towards raising food for people.](#)
- Key Goal: [Provide government assistance for transition programs.](#)

[Pillar Two: Justice for All](#)

- Key Goal: [Build equitable access to USDA programs.](#)
- Key Goal: [Invest in socially disadvantaged farmers.](#)
- Key Goal: [Create worker protections within the agricultural industry.](#)

[Pillar Three: Build Local, Eat Local](#)

- Key Goal: [Strip corporations of their excessive market power and control of food supply chains.](#)
- Key Goal: [Enhance labeling transparency to provide more market opportunities and improve competition.](#)
- Key Goal: [Invest in local and regional food systems.](#)

[Pillar Four: Conservation and Regeneration](#)

- Key Goal: [Require certain conservation and regenerative practices within farm bill programs.](#)
- Key Goal: [Provide both financial and technical support to farmers transitioning their practices.](#)
- Key Goal: [Improve public transparency of climate and environmental initiatives.](#)

INTRODUCTION



Time and time again farmers, rural communities, and advocates have tried to shift government support away from the industrial agriculture model controlled by a handful of corporations. Time and time again, we have failed, because Big Ag controls the process from policy narrative to legislative votes.

The farm bill is the best opportunity to achieve meaningful reforms to our current consolidated food and agriculture system — but first, we need to change conversations everywhere from the kitchen table to the Capitol.

This policy handbook is a tool to do just that. The farm bill can seem like a vast and at times bewildering maze of legislation, so we're offering a straightforward approach to understanding what it has been, and what it could become. We've organized our recommendations into four broad "pillars," or areas of change; major shifts in policy within these four categories would mean we've finally broken the Big Ag-friendly mold of farm bills past. Within these pillars, you'll find concise, concrete, and actionable policy recommendations.

Reforming our food system to be more fair, inclusive, and competitive will be a long process. That is why we have set forth goals for not just the 2023 Farm Bill but the 2028 one as well. We hope that in working toward a more fair farm bill, we can build and strengthen lasting relationships between the farmers, ranchers, food system workers, policymakers, and advocates who all seek the same thing: a food and farm system that works for everyone — not just the powerful few.

DEFINITION OF TERMS



- A **Pillar** represents a broad policy concept: for instance, that the farm bill should help us build local infrastructure so we can eat food produced locally.
- Following a short narrative to illustrate its importance, each of the four Pillars lists **Key Goals**, which target policy and funding mechanisms we could change in pursuit of that broad concept.
- Toward these goals, we have identified **Objectives**, or specific legislative measures, for both the 2023 and 2028 farm bills.
- For each Objective we've noted one or more **Titles**, or farm bill categories, that the policies fall within.
- Many Objectives also include one or more **Marker Bills**, or legislation introduced to Congress that's actually intended for inclusion into the farm bill.
- Some sections also flag **Measures We Oppose**: likely tactics or arguments the opposition might use to defeat our objectives, goals, or pillars.

FAIR FARM BILL

AT A GLANCE



Pillar One: Food, Not Feed

Shift federal dollars to prioritize food for people: fruits, vegetables, legumes, and regeneratively raised animal protein.

The majority of government funding and taxpayer-backed agriculture programs support intensive livestock and poultry production or the production of grains to feed these animals. Federal checkoff programs have been corrupted to build undue political influence for multinational grain and meat processing corporations. If we reform the checkoff programs and shift support toward the production of food that feeds people, farmers could afford to escape industrial agriculture's treadmill and profitably grow food for their communities.

Pillar Two: Justice for All

Lift socially disadvantaged farmers and communities.

We are strongest when we are standing together, and to achieve the kind of fair and inclusive society that will benefit us all, we need to reform our food and farm system so that we are all standing on level ground. We must make credit accessible to all, ensure robust representation on government boards and commissions, and direct funding to organizations led by members of disadvantaged communities that provide technical assistance.

Pillar Three: Build Local, Eat Local

Strengthen antitrust enforcement while investing in local and regional food systems.

A food system controlled by corporate behemoths poses both a food security and national security threat. By breaking up agrifood corporations and investing in local and regional food systems, we can create a resilient food system that will feed us even if calamity strikes.

Pillar Four: Conservation and Regeneration

Grow conservation and regenerative practices by tying them to federal payments.

Requiring participants to commit to certain conservation and regenerative practices in order to receive payments through these programs would be a highly effective way to reduce the impact agriculture has on severe weather events.

PILLAR ONE:

FOOD, NOT FEED



The majority of government funding and taxpayer-backed agriculture programs support intensive livestock and poultry production or the production of grains to feed these animals. Federal checkoff programs have been corrupted to build undue political influence for multinational grain and meat processing corporations. If we reform the checkoff programs and shift support toward the production of food that feeds people, farmers could afford to escape industrial agriculture's treadmill and profitably grow food for their communities.

Key Goal: Stop the abuse of commodity checkoff programs.

The checkoff system takes the hard-earned money of farmers and ranchers and uses it to guarantee a self-perpetuating, pro-corporate, anti-independent producer policy agenda. In the short term, the programs need to become transparent, accountable, and free of conflicts of interest. In the long term, checkoffs should be voluntary.

- **2023 Objective: Ensure checkoff programs are transparent and accountable** by requiring their budgets and disbursements to be published and periodically audited, and by restricting their engagement with lobbying organizations that have conflicts of interest or that conduct anticompetitive activities.
 - Marker Bill: Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act of 2023
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2028 Objective: Allow commodity producers to participate in checkoff programs on a voluntary, rather than mandatory, basis.**
 - Marker Bill: Voluntary Checkoff Program Participation Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous

- **2028 Objective: Require programs to publicly disclose research they funded, and require academic journals to disclose their funding sources.**
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Titles: Research, Extension, and Related Matters; Miscellaneous
- **Measures We Oppose: Attempts to create new checkoffs, attempts to weaken current rules.**

Key Goal: Shift funding and programs away from commodity feed crops and towards raising food for people.

Americans' tax dollars should support a system that feeds their families and neighbors. We could accomplish this by shifting direct payments, loans, and additional risk management tools or safety net supports through the farm bill programs toward growing vegetables, fruits, nuts, legumes, and cereal grains.

Currently, about one third of corn and roughly 70% of soybeans produced in the U.S. go to animal feed. [An estimated 99% of U.S. livestock](#) are raised under the EPA definition of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). In 2019, U.S. taxpayers spent \$2.75 billion on corn and \$1.33 billion on soybean commodity payments, which means that CAFO production received roughly \$1.8 billion in subsidy payments for feed that year. Essentially, U.S. taxpayers gave industrial agriculture \$1.8 billion toward feed to support their inhumane, industrialized approach to livestock management.

It is time to direct government funding toward sustainable food production systems for our communities, instead of toward industrial complexes that produce meat for export to developed and rapidly developing nations whose growing economic middle classes can afford to pay global market prices for meat.

- **2023 Objective: Increase and improve access to risk management tools for diverse, organic, specialty crop, limited-resource, and non-conventional producers by improving the Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and Micro Farm programs.** We must further incentivize the advantage in WFRP for producers to diversify and incentivize agents to sell more WFRP and Micro Farm policies. We must also codify the recent changes USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has made to WFRP and Micro Farm program.

- Marker Bills: Insuring Fairness for Family Farmers Act of 2023; Whole Farm Revenue Protection Improvement Act of 2023; Assisting Family Farmers through Insurance Reform Measures Act
- Titles: Horticulture; Crop Insurance; Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: Set payment limits on risk management and commodity programs so that the largest farms aren't receiving the bulk of the support.**
 - Marker Bills: Assisting Family Farmers through Insurance Reform Measures Act; Farm Program Integrity Act
 - Titles: Commodities; Crop Insurance
- **2023 Objective: Massively scale up funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) to at least \$350 million and implement procurement rules that ensure these dollars go towards local and regional producers.**
 - Marker Bills: Oh SNAP, Close the Fruit and Vegetable Gap Act; GusNIP Improvement Act
 - Titles: Miscellaneous
- **Measures We Oppose:**
 - **Attempts to raise or weaken current payment limits**, including attempts to broaden and dilute the definition of “actively engaged in farming.” “Actively engaged in farming” is one of the 2018 Farm Bill requirements, established to ensure that farm program payments only go to current producers.
 - Titles: Commodities; Crop Insurance
 - **Attempts to raise reference prices in the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program**, which is a misguided solution to the current increase in operational expenses farmers face. Instead of helping farmers, a PLC price reference increase would ultimately be captured by a few large corporations.
 - Title: Commodities

Key Goal: Provide government assistance for transition programs.

The farm bill has the power to help farmers escape industrial agriculture's treadmill by incentivizing organic, regenerative food production practices that provide healthy and affordable food for our neighbors.

- **2023 Objective: Increase funding to grant programs, like NIFA and SARE, with a focus on assisting farmers transitioning to organic and/or regenerative food production models.**
 - Marker Bills: Opportunities in Organic Act; Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2023
 - Titles: Conservation; Rural Development; Research, Extension, and Related Matters; Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: Authorize and fund the USDA Regional Food Business Centers Program to support farmers and small food businesses with technical assistance and business development.**
 - Marker Bills: USDA Regional Food Business Center as created by USDA using American Rescue Plan and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Acts
 - Titles: Rural Development; Horticulture; Miscellaneous
- **2028 Objective: Provide a voluntary buyout for farmers who want to stop producing livestock or poultry according to CAFO methods.**
 - Marker Bills: Farm System Reform Act of 2023; Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023
 - Titles: Conservation; Rural Development; Research, Extension, and Related Matters; Miscellaneous

PILLAR TWO: JUSTICE FOR ALL



Everyone deserves an equal chance to succeed, but the USDA has openly admitted to discriminatory practices that stack the deck against marginalized farmers. Historically underserved farmers and ranchers have long been denied participation in local and national agricultural programs and policy development.

We are strongest when we are standing together, and to achieve the kind of fair and inclusive society that will benefit us all, we need to reform our food and farm system so that we are all standing on level ground. We must make credit accessible to all, ensure robust representation on government boards and commissions, and direct funding to organizations led by members of disadvantaged communities that provide technical assistance.

Key Goal: Build equitable access to USDA programs.

USDA has a proven track record of systemic racism and discriminatory practices. We need clear legislative markers and oversight programs to ensure equitable access in the future.

- **2023 Objective: Technical assistance through BIPOC-led organizations** that support organizations that are already focused on underserved communities.
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Titles: Conservation; Research, Extension, and Related Matters
- **2023 Objective: Maintain and grow “set-asides” for all USDA support programs** that require 5% of funding to go to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and 5% to go to beginning farmers and ranchers.
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Titles: Crop Insurance; Miscellaneous

- **2023 Objective: Increase transparency and accountability in USDA oversight.**
 - Marker Bill: Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2023
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: Create more equitable funding.** Funding to land-grant universities and community-based organizations should be equitably distributed to all the research programs. The farm bill should include set-asides for research funding and increased funding to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).
 - Marker Bill: Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2023
 - Titles: Research, Extension, and Related Matters
- **2023 Objective: Equitable representation of BIPOC farmers on government boards and commissions.** BIPOC farmers bring unique experiences and valuable knowledge to the table. Not only should they have equal rights to these positions, their perspectives will greatly benefit these committees.
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: USDA school procurement programs,** such as the Farm to School Grant Program, should proactively prioritize and engage beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers and serve racially diverse and high-need student populations.
 - Marker Bill: There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: Expand tribal access to conservation funding** to include traditional conservation practices that are not necessarily recognized by USDA and NRCS.
 - Marker Bill: Pending Introduction: Natural Climate Solutions Act
 - Title: Conservation
- **2023 Objective: Increase tribal sovereignty and self-determination** so that Indigenous people can access and support the production of fresh and traditional local foods.
 - Marker Bill: 638 authorization in Pilot Program for Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), where 8 of the 276 tribes were given direct control of FDPIR program administration
 - Titles: Nutrition; Miscellaneous

- **2028 Objective: Require all entities holding contracts** (procurement, insurance, or otherwise) with USDA to consent to a full audit including an examination of labor, environmental, civil rights, and other federal law compliance. Entities found in violation of any federal law would have their contracts revoked, and would be barred from entering another contract for a certain period of time.
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Titles: All farm bill titles and USDA programs
- **2028 Objective: Invest in land access** for new entry and transitioning farmers, including farm transition plans. These loan structures should include low interest rates and minimum payments.
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Title: Miscellaneous

Key Goal: Invest in socially disadvantaged farmers.

Everyone deserves a fair opportunity to earn a living and build upon their family's legacy in agriculture. We must address the discrepancies in agriculture institutions' lending and credit practices that disproportionately affect marginalized communities.

- **2023 Objective: Debt-repayment of USDA loans for small farms.** The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 included several important provisions toward this objective. Unless Congress passes legislation making these payments tax-exempt, many farmers will face burdensome tax liabilities that could send them right back into devastating debt.
 - Marker Bills: Family Farmer and Rancher Tax Fairness Act
 - Title: Credit
- **2023 Objective: Invest in socially disadvantaged farmers by improving credit access, credit assistance, and succession planning.** One way to achieve this would be to authorize and fund USDA's Heirs Property Relending Program within the farm bill. USDA's Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program, funded through the Inflation Reduction Act, marked another important step toward reaching this objective.
 - Marker Bills: Increasing Land Access, Security and Opportunities Act; Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2023; USDA's Heirs Property Relending Program

- Title: Credit

Key Goal: Create worker protections within the agricultural industry.

USDA must do everything within its jurisdiction to protect food system workers. A food system that relies on workers who are forced to endure inhumane working conditions or risk their personal health is unjust and unstable. In order to ensure a fair and resilient food system, we must provide both farmers and food system workers with government protections.

- **2023 Objective: Protect meatpacking workers from line-speed waivers** that adversely impact worker safety.
 - Marker Bills: Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act of 2023; Industrial Animal Agriculture Accountability Act; Agricultural Worker Justice Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: Conduct reviews assessing racial discrimination, safety, and other challenges food system workers face.**
 - Marker Bill: Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act of 2023
 - Title: Miscellaneous

PILLAR THREE:

BUILD LOCAL, EAT LOCAL



A food system controlled by corporate behemoths poses both a food security and national security threat. By breaking up agrifood corporations and investing in local and regional food systems, we can enhance market transparency and competition. It's time to empower people, not corporations, and create a resilient food and agriculture system that will feed us even if calamity strikes. If we build local, we can eat local!

Key Goal: Strip corporations of their excessive market power and control of food supply chains.

We need to empower people, not corporations, by enforcing and strengthening our anti-monopoly laws and stripping the influence of corporate trade and lobbying organizations.

- **2023 Objective: Ensure checkoff programs are transparent and accountable** by requiring their budgets and disbursements to be published and periodically audited, and by restricting their engagement with lobbying organizations that have conflicts of interest or that conduct anticompetitive activities.
 - Marker Bill: Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act of 2023
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: Strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act)** so that it has the power to protect livestock and poultry producers from anticompetitive practices as originally intended. The USDA is currently undergoing a rulemaking process to address some of the P&S Act weaknesses. The farm bill should support these rules and strengthen any gaps they cannot close. USDA has also launched a new \$15 million program that utilizes the Biden administration's "whole-of-government" approach: a USDA-DOJ collaborative aims to empower state attorneys general in enforcing the P&S Act. This program has enormous potential and must be expanded. We also must push

back against any riders that are introduced with the intention of obstructing the ongoing rulemaking.

- Marker Bills: Farm System Reform Act of 2023; Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act of 2023; Fairness for Small-Scale Farmers and Ranchers Act; Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous
 - Measures We Oppose: Attempts to block USDA from finalizing P&S Act rules; pro-alternative marketing agreement (AMAs) language that limits the impact of new P&S Act rules
- **2023 Objective: Give farmers back the right to repair their own equipment.**

Consolidation in equipment manufacturing has allowed Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to monopolize the repair market by restricting access to critical repair tools — driving independent repair shops out of business and costing farmers thousands of dollars in delays and expensive repairs.

 - Marker Bill: Agricultural Right to Repair Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2028 Objective: Allow commodity producers to participate in checkoff programs on a voluntary, rather than mandatory, basis.**
 - Marker Bill: Voluntary Checkoff Program Participation Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2028 Objective: Begin the process of reviewing the largest mega-mergers of the past two decades.**
 - Marker Bill: Fairness for Small-Scale Farmers and Ranchers Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2028 Objective: Create a moratorium on large agribusiness, food and beverage manufacturing, and retail grocery mergers and acquisitions.**
 - Marker Bill: Fairness for Small-Scale Farmers and Ranchers Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2028 Objective: Place an immediate moratorium on new large CAFOs, and phase out the largest existing CAFOs by 2040.**
 - Marker Bill: Farm System Reform Act of 2023
 - Title: Miscellaneous

- **Measure We Oppose:**
 - **Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act (S.2019 and H.R. 4417)**, which aims to strip state and local governments of their ability to make agricultural policies within their own borders — policies that create market opportunity for farmers and protect communities' health and wellbeing.
 - Title: Miscellaneous

Key Goal: Enhance labeling transparency to provide more market opportunities and improve competition.

Current policies have enabled misleading labeling practices, allowing multinational corporations to steal independent producers' markets out from under them and obscure the truth from the American consumer.

- **2023 Objective: Require Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) on beef, pork, and dairy products.** It is already a requirement for poultry, fruits, and vegetables.
 - Marker Bills: Farm System Reform Act of 2023; Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act of 2023; Country of Origin Labeling Enforcement Act; American Beef Labeling Act of 2023; Fairness for Small-Scale Farmers and Ranchers Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: Require truth in labeling** by prohibiting imported meat products from being labeled "Product of U.S.A."
 - Marker Bill: Farm System Reform Act of 2023
 - Title: Miscellaneous

Key Goal: Invest in local and regional food systems.

We need to invest in and build up local and regional food production, processing, distribution, and retail. In order to offer local and regional food systems comparable levels of support to what consolidated industrial food production systems currently enjoy, we must invest in more land access, access to information and technology, improved infrastructure, and more sales and distribution outlets.

- **2023 Objective: Massively scale up funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)** to at least \$350 million and implement procurement rules that ensure these dollars go towards local and regional producers.
 - Marker Bills: Oh SNAP, Close the Fruit and Vegetable Gap Act; GusNIP Improvement Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: Increase funding for Local Agricultural Marketing program (LAMP) to \$500 million.**
 - Marker Bills: Local Food and Farms Act; Fairness for Small-Scale Farmers and Ranchers Act; Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act of 2023
 - Title: Horticulture
- **2023 Objective: Provide additional funding to the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans and Grants program,** in addition to what the USDA has made available using ARPA funding, to support local and regional vegetable, fruit, and nut processing.
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Titles: Credit; Rural Development
- **2023 Objective: Require that USDA establish purchasing targets or set-asides for purchases of foods from independent regional producers, foods from socially disadvantaged producers, and foods from organic/regenerative farms.**
 - Marker Bill: Strengthening Local Meat Economies Act
 - Title: Nutrition
- **2023 Objective: Authorize and fund USDA's Local Foods Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) and Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS).** By facilitating procurement partnerships between local producers and community food programs (such as food banks and schools), we can build resiliency in our food supply chain.
 - Marker Bills: USDA Local Foods Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA)
 - Titles: Credit; Miscellaneous
- **2023 Objective: Increase schools' abilities and directives to support regional food systems by:**
 1. **Allowing schools to use "local" as a product specification** in their procurement requests

2. **Increasing mandatory funding of Farm to School Act** to \$15 million and increase maximum grant award to \$500,000
 3. **Continuing (and expanding to more states) the Pilot Project for Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables** and allow participating states more flexibility in procuring fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables
 4. **Increasing Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) funding** and requiring a percentage to be purchased locally
 - Marker Bill: American Food for American Schools Act
 - Title: Nutrition
- **2023 Objective: Increased investment in community food projects that address food security in urban low-income areas**, like the USDA's Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production grant program. We can improve community resilience by developing urban agriculture projects.
 - Marker Bill: Supporting Urban and Innovative Farming Act of 2023
 - Titles: Nutrition; Horticulture; Miscellaneous

PILLAR FOUR:

CONSERVATION AND REGENERATION



The farm bill's subsidized insurance programs offer protection in the case of crop failure, but they primarily benefit farms that grow corn, soybeans, cotton, sugar, and wheat. These same farms also receive the lion's share of farm bill-funded disaster payments — without any requirement that they work to mitigate the extreme weather patterns that contribute to the rising costs of these taxpayer-funded programs. Requiring participants to commit to certain conservation and regenerative practices in order to receive payments through these programs would be a basic but highly effective way to reduce the impact agriculture has on severe weather events.

Key Goal: Require certain conservation and regenerative practices within farm bill programs.

There are many practices that farmers can deploy to mitigate the effects of extreme weather on their operations, and practices that reduce their contribution to the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Crop insurance, commodity or price support, and disaster payment programs exist to help buffer farmers and ranchers from the effects of severe weather. In order for farmers to benefit from these programs they should demonstrate that their farming practices are part of the solution, not the problem.

- **2023 Objective: Pass the COVER Act**, which offers growers a \$5 crop insurance premium subsidy for every acre planted in cover crops.
 - Marker Bill: Agriculture Conservation Opportunity and Voluntary Environment Resilience Program (COVER) Act
 - Title: Crop Insurance

- **2023 Objective: Create set-asides in EQIP for livestock producers who use pasture-based systems.**
 - Marker Bill: Food and Farm Act
 - Titles: Conservation; Miscellaneous
- **2028 Objective: Require farmers to meet certain conservation standards** in order to participate in federal crop insurance, commodity/price support, and disaster payment programs.
 - Marker Bills: Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023; Food and Farm Act
 - Titles: Commodities; Conservation; Crop Insurance
- **2028 Objective: Prioritize EQIP spending on projects that demonstrably improve the quality of the environment.**
 - Marker Bill: EQIP Improvement Act of 2023
 - Title: Conservation
- **2028 Objective: Hold corporate integrators responsible for pollution** and other harmful effects of CAFOs.
 - Marker Bills: Farm System Reform Act of 2023; Industrial Animal Agriculture Accountability Act
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **Measures We Oppose:** Judicial or legislative attempts, such as the King Amendment and the EATS Act, to block states' abilities to implement public welfare, environmental protection, and animal welfare standards.

Key Goal: Provide both financial and technical support to farmers transitioning their practices.

Farmers transitioning away from industrial agriculture and towards conservation and regenerative practices need both financial and technical resources to be successful. The farm bill should support these efforts, as a more climate-smart agriculture system would be more resilient and less costly for taxpayers in the long run.

- **2023 Objective: Offer financial assistance to farmers transitioning to organic farming** by expanding and funding the USDA's Organic Transition Initiative.

- Marker Bill: Opportunities in Organic Act
 - Title: Horticulture
- **2023 Objective: Protect the \$19 billion allocated to the Conservation programs in the Inflation Reduction Act.** The Inflation Reduction Act made important investments in these historically oversubscribed programs. We need to ensure this funding remains in these programs and is used to support farming practices with demonstrable positive impacts on the environment.
 - Marker Bill: Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023
 - Title: Conservation
- **2023 Objective: Restore and streamline the organic cost-share program,** which helps subsidize organic certification fees for growers.
 - Marker Bill: Opportunities in Organic Act
 - Title: Horticulture
- **2023 Objective: Prioritize multiple benefit practices in conservation programs** that emphasize diversified operations, grazing, etc. Multiple benefits include soil health, water quality protection, water-retention capacity of soil, habitat protection, reduced input use, etc.
 - Marker Bill: Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023
 - Title: Conservation
- **2023 Objective: Invest in renewable energy for farmers and rural small businesses.** The farm bill can expand on the Inflation Reduction Act's substantial investments in rural renewable energy projects. In order to benefit farmers and small businesses, these investments must be directed toward solar, wind, and charging station projects, and not be co-opted by biodigesters and other biofuels that funnel the benefits into the pockets of large agribusiness conglomerates.
 - Marker Bill: The EQIP Improvement Act of 2023
 - Title: Energy
- **2023 Objective: Reduce subsidies to CAFO operations** through REAP, EQIP, and other USDA conservation programs. Possible reforms to this funding include prioritizing practices that demonstrably improve the environment, as well as removing EQIP's 50% livestock set-aside, as we saw in the Inflation Reduction Act.

- Marker Bills: Farm System Reform Act of 2023; Agriculture Resilience Act of 2023; EQIP Improvement Act of 2023
 - Title: Conservation
- **2023 Objective: Re-establish the Civilian Conservation Corps** to provide youth from low-income communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color with skills and work experience in forestry and wetlands restoration.
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Titles: Conservation; Rural Development
- **2023 Objective: Establish a Farm Conservation Corps** to provide young adults from socially disadvantaged communities with the academic, vocational, and social skills necessary to pursue careers in farming and ranching.
 - Marker Bill: Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2023
 - Titles: Conservation; Rural Development
- **2028 Objective: Provide voluntary buyouts for farmers who want to transition out of operating a CAFO.**
 - Marker Bill: Farm System Reform Act of 2023
 - Titles: Conservation; Credit
- **Measures We Oppose:** Judicial or legislative attempts, such as the King Amendment and the EATS Act, to block states' abilities to implement public welfare, environmental protection, and animal welfare standards.

Key Goal: Improve public transparency of climate and environmental initiatives.

Transparency in funding and research is necessary to prevent industrial corporations from greenwashing or passing the costs of their harmful practices on to taxpayers and the surrounding communities.

- **2023 Objective: Increase funding for agricultural research programs**, including the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI), Organic Transitions Program (ORG), Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE).
 - Marker Bill: Organic Science and Research Investment Act of 2023

- Title: Research
- **2028 Objective: Increase publicly funded research**, and prohibit industry-funded research publications from being used to determine approval of agricultural products and chemicals.
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Title: Research
- **2028 Objective: Require all corporations holding contracts (procurement, insurance, or otherwise) with USDA to consent to a full audit**, including an examination of labor, environmental, civil rights, and other federal law compliance. Corporations found in violation of any federal law would have their contracts revoked, and would be barred from entering another for a certain period of time.
 - There are currently no marker bills toward this objective.
 - Title: Miscellaneous
- **Measures We Oppose:** Judicial or legislative attempts, such as the King Amendment and the EATS Act, to block states' abilities to implement public welfare, environmental protection, and animal welfare standards.