



FARM BILL: Conservation Priorities



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**NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE COALITION**

Today's Session

- Farm Bill: Where We Are At
- House Farm Bill: What was in it?
- Administration: What are they doing?



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Today's Session

- Questions and comments welcome at anytime
- NSAC is always curious how its going on the ground
- Feel free to email:
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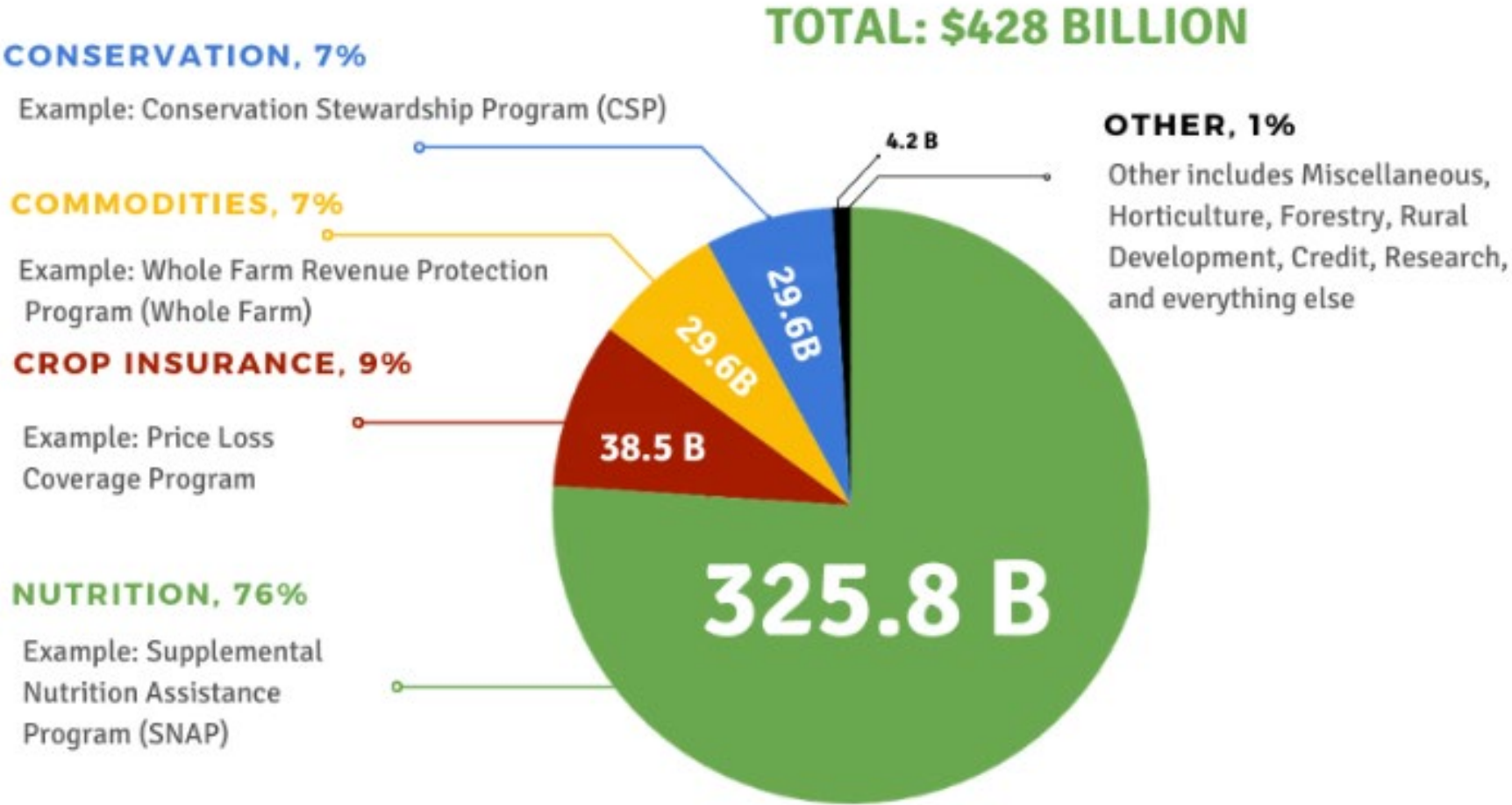
Farm Bill

Where We Are At?

Farm Bill: Where are we at?



Farm Bill Basics - Cost

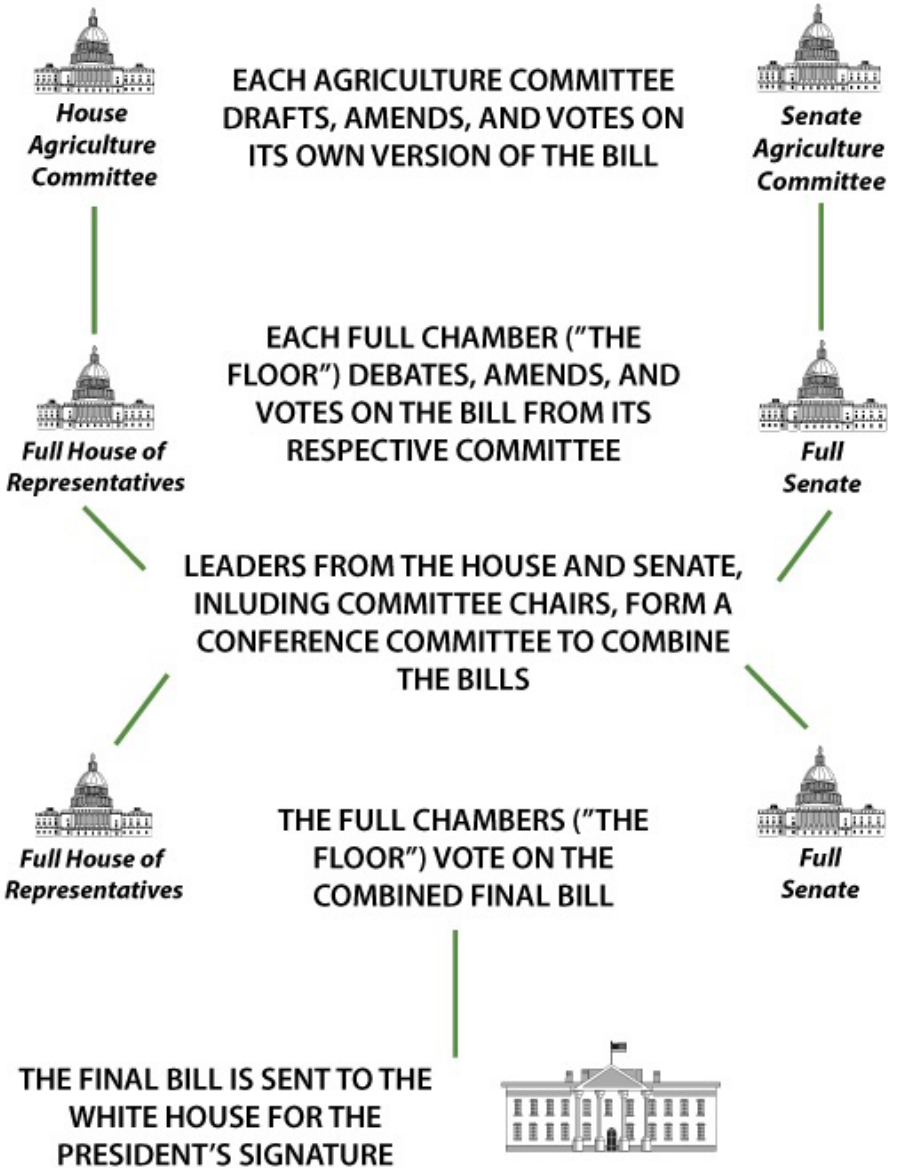


Farm Bill Basics - Contents

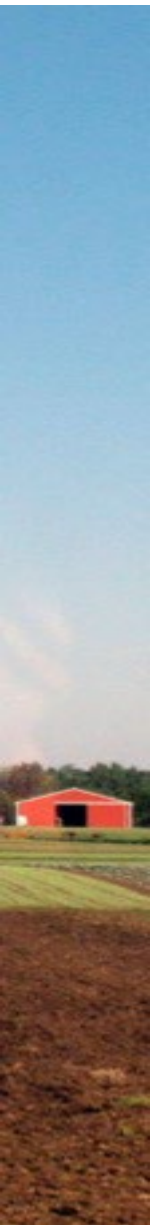
Language that authorizes programs

- What it does
- How long it will last
- How it will be funded
 - Mandatory or discretionary
- Who can access it
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Priorities for certain farmers
- The amount or funding or resources available

Farm Bill Basics - Process



House Agriculture Committee



- The majority passed a reconciliation package last summer that:
 - Took hundreds of millions from the nutrition title
 - Built baseline for conservation programs
 - CSP – \$13.6 billion, a 36% increase
 - EQIP – \$31.55 billion, a 55% increase
 - ACEP – \$6.85 billion, a 26% increase
 - RCPP – \$4.475 billion, a 49% increase
- Farm Bill program authorizations now have varied end dates
- The ag economy is putting big pressure on Congress to take some action

Farm Bill: Possible Paths

- Full Reauthorization
 - Unlikely, largely due to a likely filibuster from the minority in the Senate
 - No serious moves from the Majority in the Senate to build momentum

- Another Extension
 - Very likely, path of least resistance

- Farm Bill as a rider on another legislative vehicle
 - Possible, but still unlikely
 - Minority likely to object over snap
 - Other vehicles are uncertain in and of themselves
 - And just in case....



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House Farm Bill

What was in it?

House Farm Bill – What was in it??

□ **Sec. 2101 - CRP**

- All authorization dates updated to 2031...(great to see the walk back from the full program overhaul)

□ **Sec. 2202 - EQIP Establishment and Administration**

- EQIP cost shared practices can also receive loan funds (I'm a bit dubious of the double dipping)
- GHG reduction added as a purpose to top 10 practice authority
- 90% cost share for precision ag
- Livestock set-aside extended to 2031 (50%)
- Organic payment limit raised from 140K to 200K (should have been eliminated entirely!!)
- Southern Border Initiative...
 - Compensation for damage done to any farm along the southern border

House Farm Bill – What was in it??

- **Sec. 2203 - EQIP payment limits**
- Reestablished through 2031, not raised

- **Sec. 2301 - CSP**
- Precision ag added to payment language
- 4K minimum payment (an improvement over the last version!)
- Supplemental Payment for Precision Ag added (150% cost-share is a bit much)
- Payment limit reestablished through 2031

- **Sec. 2302 - State Assistance for Soil Health program in CSP**
- Carveout of 100M per year, roughly 7% of the annual CSP budget (This is a huge problem. SASH belongs in RCPP)

- ❑ **Sec. 2501 - Funding and admin**

- ❑ CRP TIP (transition Incentive Program) refunded through 2031 - 50M (no baseline, but a huge improvement over last year!)

- ❑ EQIP lost 1.055B from FY27-FY30

- ❑ EQIP's final stair step year is still fine - short term money was drawn from, but long term this shouldn't be impacted.

- ❑ Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP) at 240M total from FY27-FY31

- ❑ **Budgetary Summary for Conservation Programs:**

- ❑ EQIP: -1,055

- ❑ CRP TIP = 50

- ❑ CRP FMP = 12 (FMI is Forest Management Incentive) program

- ❑ FCEP = 240

- ❑ Feral Swine = 150

- ❑ Total new mandatory money = 452

- ❑ Total Missing EQIP Funds = 603



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Administration:

What are they doing?

- Done with mandatory budgets, so no new infusion of cash
 - \$400M from EQIP
 - \$300M from CSP
 - 25% of each state's annual allocation
- Establish a list of “Primary Practices” to fund, but any other additional practices can be funded on an RAI contract.
- Requires 5 year contracts

- Soil Health Testing required in year 1 and 5, using [CEMA 216](#) and/or [CEMA 217](#).
- “Whole Farm Assessments” will be defined based on Program policy requirements:
 - CSP policy requires all land that the operator has control of for 5 years to be a part of the conservation stewardship plan.
 - EQIP policy supports a subset of land under control of the operator/customer to be encompassed by the whole farm plan.
- Soil and Water RC’s must be met on enrolled ground over the life of the contract
- CTA was almost included in this initiative....

- There will be a Chief's Regenerative Agriculture Advisory Council.
 - 15 members
 - 9 regenerative farmers
 - 3 corporate supply-chain or consumer packaged goods (CPG) representatives
 - 3 consumer or MAHA representatives
 - The Council will meet quarterly with the Chief of NRCS for one year



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The End:

Thanks!