2018 Farm Bill Updates

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What We’ll Cover Today

• What is The Farm Bill?
• The Farm Bill reauthorization process
• Funding in The Farm Bill
• Upcoming proposals for the 2018 Farm Bill
• Where to find proposed and/or current legislation
• How can you educate policymakers about issues in the 2018 Farm Bill?
What is the Farm Bill?

• Law that governs agricultural, nutrition, and food assistance programs
• Passed every 5 years by Congress (known as the “Reauthorization process”) – next reauthorization is in 2018
• Administered by the USDA
• Topics include food assistance programs, commodity crop prices, conservation, research, rural development, and bioenergy

Photo Credit: Carolina Farm Stewardship Association.
Farm Bill Reauthorization Process

1. Farm Bill Hearings
   - Referred to Ag Committees
     - House Ag Committee Drafts Bill
     - Senate Ag Committee Drafts Bill
       - Floor consideration
         - Vote “Yes”
         - Vote “No”
           - Referred to Conference Committee

2. Conference Committee Approves Bill
   - Yes
   - No
     - Full Congress: Floor consideration
       - Passed w/ amendments
       - Passed w/o amendments
         - Reconciled between both bodies
           - Yes
           - No
             - President Vote
               - Approve
               - Veto
Farm Bill Spending by Major Programs

What’s in the Farm Bill (Projected Costs from 2014-2023)

- Nutrition Programs ($756 billion)
- Crop Insurance ($89.8 billion)
- Conservation ($56 billion)

Source: https://www.cbo.gov/publication/45049
Trump’s Proposed Budget Cuts to The Farm Bill

- USDA would get 21% cut discretionary funding ($47 billion over 10 years)
  - Discretionary funding includes programs related to research, rural development, and nutrition programs (funding expires December 8, 2017)
  - Largest cuts for SNAP ($193 billion over 10 years)
  - Making SNAP a block-grant to states, and requiring states to match as much as 25% of the program’s costs by 2023
  - Requiring SNAP retailers to pay an application fee
  - Eliminating conservation programs, Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, and Specialty Crop Block Grants
- Proposes to “reopen” The Farm Bill to make wide range of changes
- Analysts suggest Trump’s proposed changes would be “dead on arrival”
How Can You Track Farm Bill Legislation?

• Go to https://www.govtrack.us and select “Food and Agriculture”
• Write topic name in “search” button
Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- SNAP Retailer Rule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final rule requirements (July 2017)</th>
<th>Number of Staple Food Categories</th>
<th>Number of Staple Food Varieties per Category (Variety)</th>
<th>Number of Stocking Units per Variety (Depth of Stock)</th>
<th>Number of Food Items Required</th>
<th>Number Perishable Foods in Staple Food Categories</th>
<th>Percent of Food Sales Coming from Prepared Foods</th>
<th>Multiple Ingredient Foods</th>
<th>Accessory Foods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 (vegetables/fruits; dairy; meat/poultry/fish; bread or cereals)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Counts if the product’s main ingredient is a staple food item</td>
<td>Does not count</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education)
• Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
The Local FARMS Act

• Solidifies funding for local foods system programs in the Farm Bill
• Brings together the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and the Value-Added Producer Grants Program
• Stabilizes money for the Organic Cost Share Certification Program
  • This program assists farmers in transitioning to organic production
• Makes it easier for schools to procure locally- and regionally-produced food
• Expands the ability of rural development and farm service agency grants and loan programs to be used to support livestock, dairy and poultry supply chain infrastructure
Farm to School Act of 2017

• Increases annual mandatory funding from $5 million to $15 million
• Improves program participation for beginning, veteran & socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers by providing TA and research to potential applicants
• Expands grant scope to include early care and education sites, summer food service program sites, and after school programs in the program
• Increasing access among tribal schools to farm-fresh and traditional foods, especially from tribal producers
Not in The Farm Bill – But Still Important! Update: Child Nutrition Reauthorization

- Senate bill generally keeps nutrition standards from 2010 intact, except for the following:
  - HFFKA rules requiring all grains be 100% whole grain rich has been scaled back to 80% whole grain rich
  - Schools get more time to implement sodium Target 2 limits, and there is a hold on the final sodium target limits until further research

- House bill introduced some of the following changes:
  - HFFKA rules requiring all grains be 100% whole grain-rich has been scaled back to 80% whole grain-rich
  - Schools get more time to implement sodium Target 2 limits, and there is a hold on the final sodium target limits until further research
  - Requires USDA to review and update federal nutrition standards every 3 years
  - Repeals ban on student bake sales
  - Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program is no longer required to offer “fresh” produce
Child Nutrition Reauthorization is Dead – So What Now?

• Congress could not agree on CNR legislation last year

• Most of the programs continue to operate “as is”, such as the include National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
  • These programs operate with appropriated funding (currently provided by P.L. 115-31).

• A number of programs' authorizations of appropriations ended after September 30, 2015 including WIC
  • Programs with an expired authorization of appropriations can continue to operate as long as funding is provided.
  • The FY2017 omnibus appropriations law allows WIC to continue to operate
### How Can You Educate or Advocate For Your Interests?

- Call and or visit your Congressman first!
- Most helpful to contact those on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Senate Ag Committee Member</th>
<th>Current Ag House Committee Members</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senator Tillis (R-NC)</td>
<td>Representative Rouzer (R-NC 7th District)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representative Adams (D-NC 12th District)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- Washington, DC: (202) 224-6342
- Raleigh: (919) 856-4630

- Washington, DC: (202) 225-2731
- Brunswick County: (910) 253-6111
- Johnston County: (919) 938-3040
- New Hanover County: (910) 395-0202

- Washington, DC: 202-225-1510
- Mecklenburg County: 704-344-9950
Questions?
Resources

• National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. WHAT IS THE FARM BILL? http://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/campaigns/fbcampaign/what-is-the-farm-bill/
• Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI). http://rafiusa.org/farmbill/