

FARM BILL PRIORITIES

Agriculture remains an important source of economic opportunity for people in rural areas. The farm bill can support small towns by:



CROP INSURANCE REFORM:

Currently, taxpayer dollars can be paid without limit to the largest farmers. **We need to cap crop insurance premium subsidies.** A limit of \$50,000 per farm in premium subsidy would only impact the largest farmers and would help level the playing field. Who does this impact? Only 0.9 percent of farmers in 2010 and 2.5 percent of farmers in 2011 received premium subsidies greater than \$50,000 and would have been impacted by a cap.¹



CONSERVATION:

Many farmers value good stewardship on their land but struggle to find the funds to integrate conservation practices into their operations. **We need to protect funding for and strengthen working lands conservation programs, such as EQIP and CSP.** Farmers deserve conservation programs that are practical and effective.



BEGINNING FARMERS:

Our beginning farmers are innovative rural entrepreneurs. **We need to protect valued programs that help beginning farmers** such as targeted funding in loan and conservation programs and education programs. In this competitive agricultural economy, getting an operation started is met with growing financial barriers, and these programs can play a key role in beginning farmers' success.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Rural communities often struggle with access to capital, from rural entrepreneurs starting a local business to communities updating infrastructure. USDA's Rural Development programs provide essential support in the form of grants and low-interest loans to rural communities. Protecting these programs is standing up for rural communities.

WHAT'S A CROP INSURANCE PREMIUM SUBSIDY?

- **Crop** – Plant or livestock grown or raised for sale.
- **Crop insurance** – Insurance that farmers can purchase to cover losses on their farms due to weather and other adverse impacts.
- **Crop insurance premium** – the cost to the farmer for purchasing crop insurance.
- **Crop insurance premium subsidy** – the amount of the premium that the government pays for.

¹ Study: GAO-12-256, CROP INSURANCE: Savings Would Result from Program Changes and Greater Use of Data Mining. March 2012.

PASS A NEW FARM BILL BEFORE IT EXPIRES ON SEPT. 30, 2018



WHAT CAN I DO TO GET INVOLVED?

- Sign up for our **email updates** at <http://www.cfra.org/contact>. We send out Rural Action Alert emails explaining issues and how you can help.
- **Call your representatives:** A simple phone call to your representative can make a huge difference! To prepare, look up who your representatives are (call the Congressional switchboard at 202.224.3121 to ask) and write down their phone numbers somewhere easy to access.
- **First-time caller?** Your call can be as simple as this:

“Hello, my name is _____ and I live in [city where you live - so they know that you’re a voter in their district]. I am calling to let Rep./Sen. _____ know that I support [full funding for conservation programs, targeted support for small and mid-sized farmers, programs that support beginning farmers... etc.]. Thank you!”
- **Get more involved:** Sign a letter of support to Congress or write a letter to the editor. We’re always happy to brainstorm ideas and work with you to draft a letter. Call us at 402.687.2100 ext. 1012.

“We know the vitality and vibrancy of rural communities and the opportunities fostered by investments in conservation, beginning farmers, and rural entrepreneurs. The 2018 farm bill represents a pivotal time to strengthen these investments and build a future of opportunity for our farmers, ranchers, and their rural communities.”

ANNA JOHNSON
POLICY PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS

