What is the Federal Farm Bill?

A one-in-five-year opportunity to ensure the policies, programs, and funding that shape the fabric of our food system serve people and the land.

Background

The Farm Bill is the most comprehensive piece of federal legislation on agriculture and nutrition policy passed every five years and touches so many aspects of our food system and lives. The Farm Bill authorizes hundreds of billions of dollars in funding over 5 years with the majority funding going to nutrition programs, then crop insurance, commodity, and conservation programs respectively.

Right now, the House and Senate Agriculture Committees are writing their separate versions of the bill. Once those are released and passed in their respective chambers, they will begin to negotiate the differences and come to a compromise.

Minnesota’s Outsized Role

Minnesota has strong representation in the Farm Bill process:

- U.S. Representatives Brad Finstad (CD-01) and Angie Craig (CD-02) serve on the House Agriculture Committee.
- U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith serve on the Senate Agriculture Committee.
- U.S. Representative Tom Emmer (CD-06) serves as the House Majority Whip.
- U.S. Representative Betty McCollum (CD-04) is a powerful House Appropriations Committee member.

LSP’s Farm Bill Values

- Use public resources for public good.
- Invest in people to build local communities vital for economic resilience.
- Uphold the interdependence of urban and rural communities.
- Acknowledge and address the history and legacy of inequities in the food system.
- Value land stewardship and regional food systems.
- Reward crop diversity and soil health as essential for our future.
- Recognize the contributions of and institute protections for food system workers, including farm and meat processing workers.
- Acknowledge that farmers are on the front lines of the climate crisis, and this challenge demands bold solutions.

Learn more and read LSP’s full Farm Bill Platform at www.landstewardshipproject.org/farmbill. Contact: us at policy@landstewardshipproject.org.