

# SAFSF Presents:

# Farm Bill 101

Philanthropy Missouri

March 26, 2024

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# SAFSF Overview

SAFSF is the leading national philanthropy serving organization (PSO) for funders seeking to drive change in support of just and sustainable food and agriculture systems.

Members include endowed and self-funded foundations and investors, as well as certain types of intermediaries, such as community development finance institutions (CDFIs), community foundations, funding collaboratives, and regranteeing organizations.

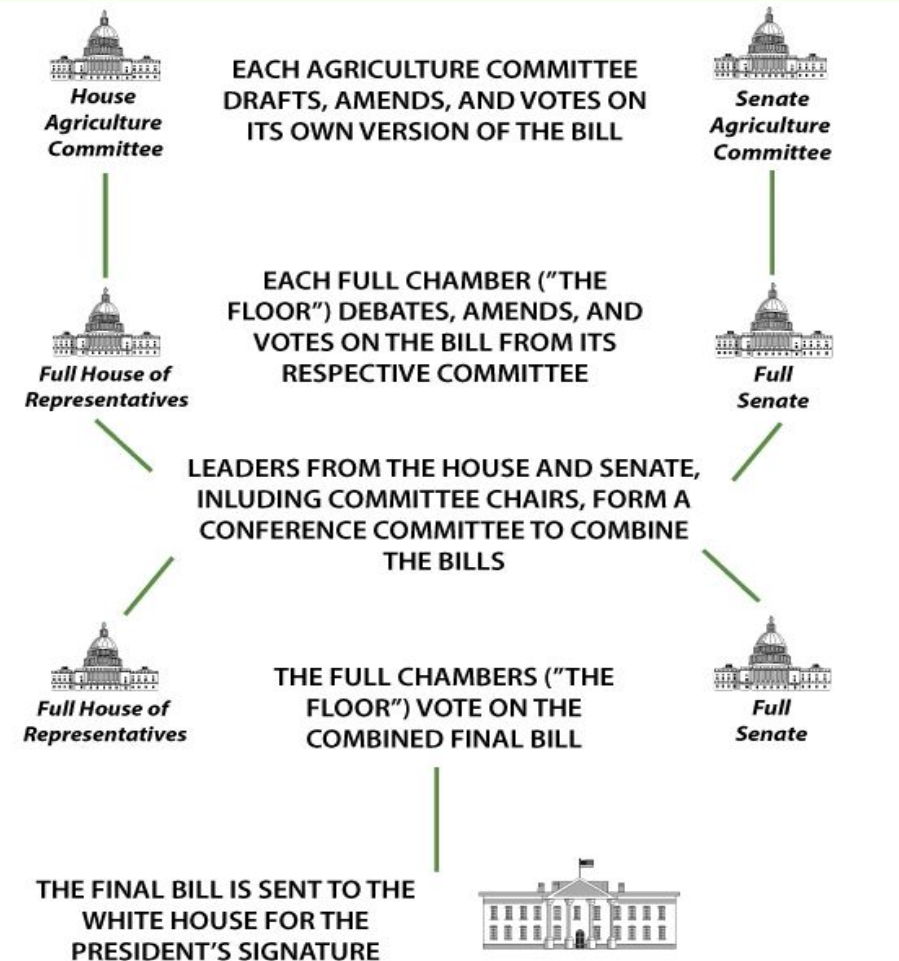
**Vision:** All resources invested in food and agriculture systems enhance our collective well-being.

**Values: Collaboration, equity, respect, stewardship, and integrity** guide our decision-making process in all our work.

# What is the Farm Bill?

- The farm bill is the most significant piece of legislation Congress enacts that has a direct impact on farming livelihoods, how food is produced, what kinds of foods are grown, and how economically distressed families eat.
- The farm bill is typically renewed about every five years.
  - **Since the 1930s, 18 farm bills have been enacted** (2018, 2014, 2008, 2002, 1996, 1990, 1985, 1981, 1977, 1973, 1970, 1965, 1956, 1954, 1949, 1948, 1938, and 1933).
- The 2018 Farm Bill includes 12 Titles

## The Path to a New Farm Bill



# 2018 Farm Bill Expiration and Extension

- The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the “Farm Bill”) expired on October 1, 2023.
- On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024, which extended the 2018 Farm Bill.
- This extension allows authorized programs to continue **through September 30, 2024** (the end of Fiscal Year 2024).

NOVEMBER 12TH, 2023

## Stabenow, Boozman, Thompson, Scott Statement on Farm Bill Extension

WASHINGTON—The four leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees released the following statement on a Farm Bill extension:

“As negotiations on funding the government progress, we were able to come together to avoid a lapse in funding for critical agricultural programs and provide certainty to producers. This extension is in no way a substitute for passing a 5-year Farm Bill and we remain committed to working together to get it done next year.”

# Who in Congress writes the Farm Bill?

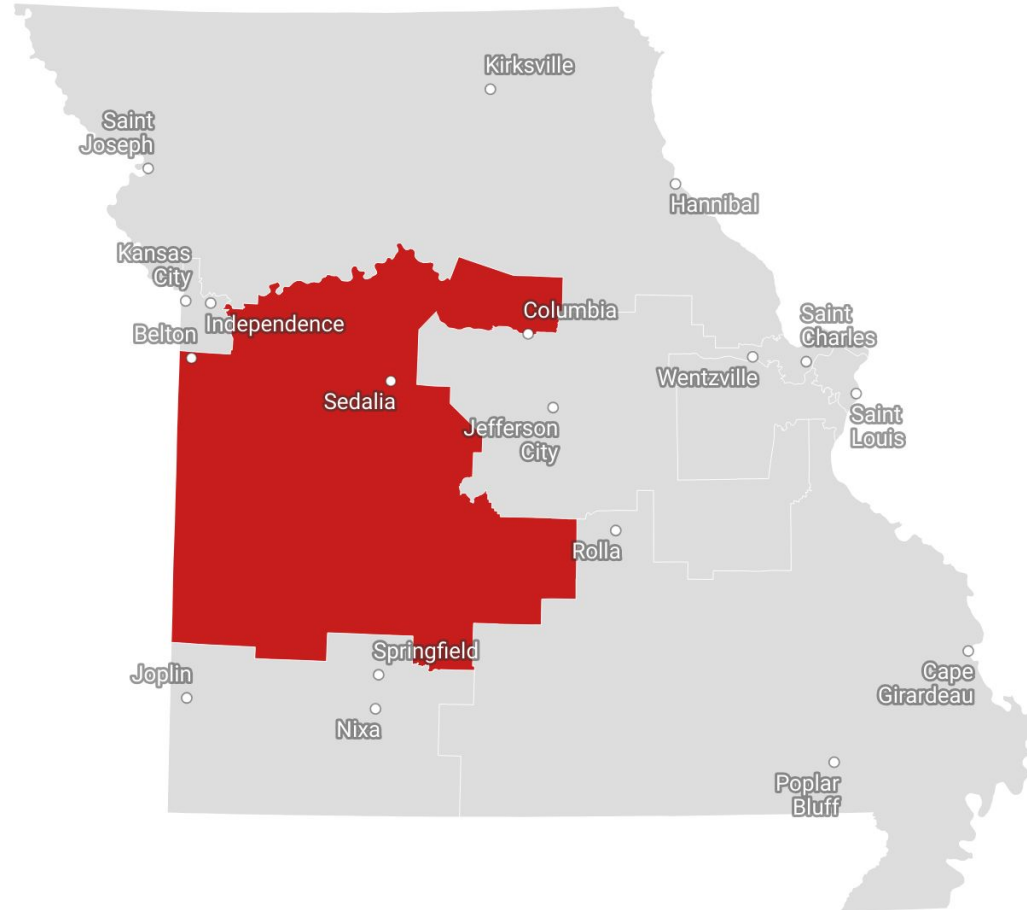
- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- House Committee on Agriculture



# Ag Committee Members: Missouri

## Missouri Representation on House Agriculture Committee

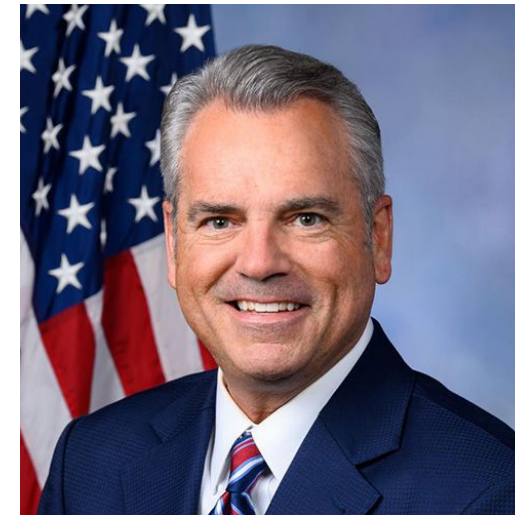
■ Rep. Mark Alford (R-MO-4)



## Rep. Mark Alford (R-MO-04)

### Subcommittees

- General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit
- Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology
- Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry



# What does the Farm Bill include (and what does it not)?

## IN THE FARM BILL

- **Title I - Commodity Programs**
- **Title II - Conservation**
- Title III - Trade
- **Title IV - Nutrition**
- **Title V - Credit**
- Title VI - Rural Development
- Title VII - Research, Extension and Related Matters
- Title VIII - Forestry
- Title IX - Energy
- **Title X - Horticulture**
- **Title XI - Crop Insurance**
- **Title XII - Miscellaneous**

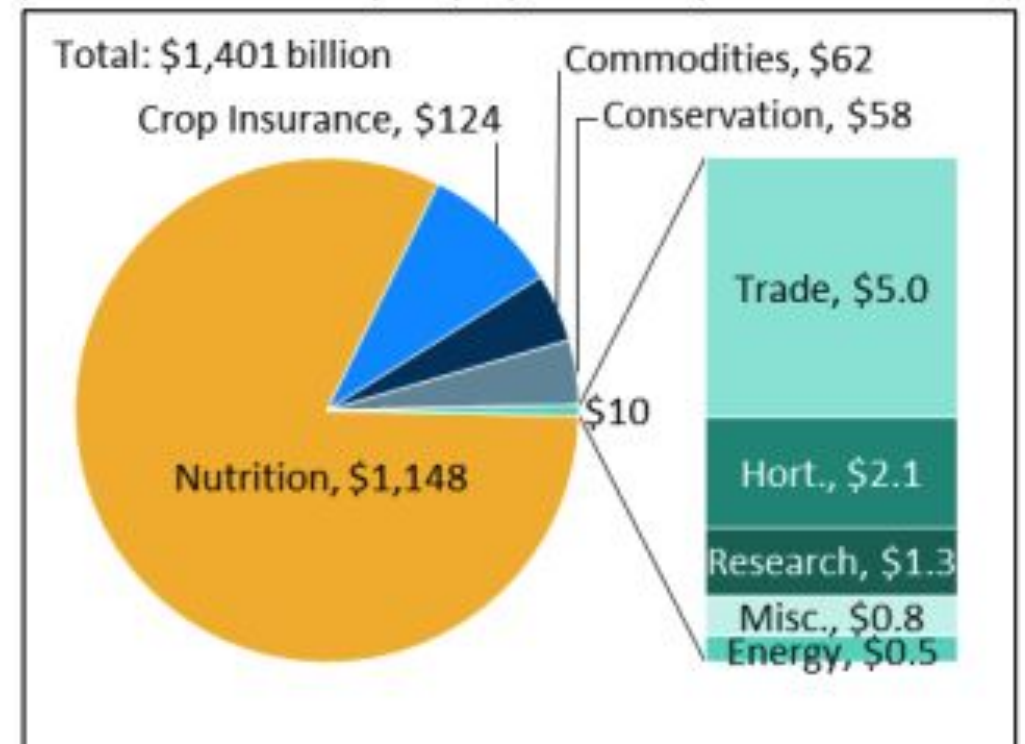
## NOT IN THE FARM BILL

- Farm and food worker rights and protections
- Public land grazing rights
- Irrigation water rights
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food safety
- Renewable fuel standards
- Tax issues
- School meal programs
- The Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) program
- Some pesticide laws
- The Clean Water Act
- The Clean Air Act

# How much does the Farm Bill cost?

- According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the 10-year baseline (FY2025-2034) for the Farm Bill is projected to be over **\$1.46 trillion**, or roughly **\$140 billion each fiscal year**.
- Food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) accounts for **85%** of projected Farm Bill spending.
  - Keep in mind that SNAP serves approximately **41 million people across the U.S.** and is one of the country's most effective tools for reducing hunger.

**Figure 1. Farm Bill Titles with Mandatory Baseline**  
(billions of dollars, 10-year projected outlays, FY2025-FY2034)



**Source:** Created by CRS using the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) February 2024 baseline for the five largest titles and amounts indicated in law for programs in other titles.



# Title I – Commodity & Title XI – Crop Insurance

- **Title I - Provides support for the following major commodity crops**
  - Wheat
  - Corn
  - Soybeans
  - Peanuts
  - Rice
  - Dairy
  - Sugar
  - Disaster assistance
- **Title XI - Provides support/subsidies for crop insurance** (risk management) largely for the same crops listed above.



# Title II – Conservation

- Encourages environmental stewardship of farmlands and improved management through programs that support working lands, land retirement, easements, partnerships and grants, and conservation compliance.
- Programs include but are not limited to:
  - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – signed in August 2022 by President Biden – provides an additional \$20 billion over five years to support USDA’s conservation programs that yield climate change mitigation benefits.



# Title IV – Nutrition

- Authorizes essential food assistance programs that support food and nutrition security for millions of Americans including:
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
  - Healthy Food Financing Initiative
  - Farmers' Market Nutrition Program/Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
  - Community Food Projects
  - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
  - Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)



# Title V – Credit

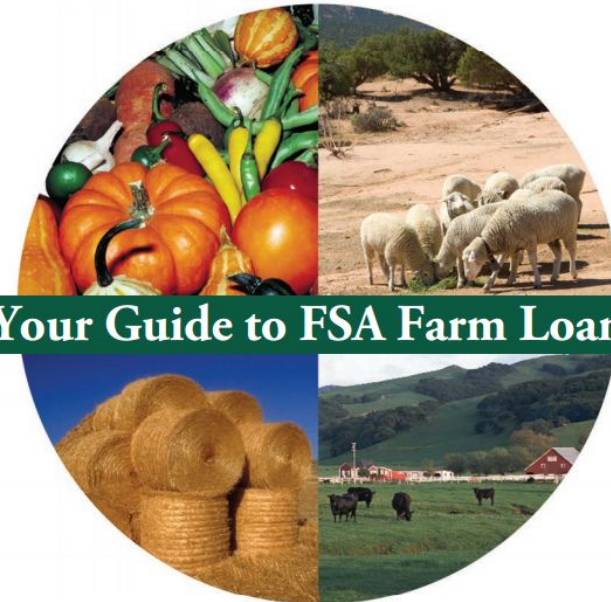
- Offers direct government loans to farmers/ranchers and guarantees on private lenders' loans, with set-asides for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

## Types of loans include:

- Operating Loans
  - Ownership Loans
  - Guaranteed Loans
- The farm bill can also deal with policy for the Farm Credit System, a government sponsored entity accounting for nearly half of all farm loans.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency



**Your Guide to FSA Farm Loans**

# Title X – Horticulture

- Supports the production of specialty crops, USDA-certified organic foods, and locally produced foods and authorizes establishing a regulatory framework for the cultivation of industrial hemp.
- **The Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP)** is an umbrella program created in the 2018 Farm Bill that partially combines and streamlines two existing, cornerstone local/regional food system programs:
  - Value Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG)
  - Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program
- Organic Provisions



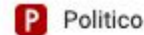
# Title XII – Miscellaneous

- Covers other programs and assistance, including support for beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, urban agriculture, assistance for livestock and poultry production, and many other provisions.
  - Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (beginning and socially disadvantaged training and education programs)



# Big Picture & Politics of the farm bill

- **Key debates/sticking points**
  - \$20B in IRA Funding allocated for USDA conservation programs
  - Reference prices and crop insurance
  - Nutrition program funding
- **Politics**
  - Delayed FY24 appropriations
  - Senator Debbie Stabenow's 2024 retirement
  - House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) - new to Farm Bill
  - 2024 Presidential election



## Stabenow threatens to block new farm bill this year over GOP demands

Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow said for the first time Tuesday that she'd rather continue punting on the farm bill than strike a...



## Senate Ag Chair Stabenow Pitches Crop Insurance Option Over Reference Price Hike

As a way to jumpstart talks on the farm bill, the chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee is pitching a proposal to give farmers a...



Farm Aid

<https://www.farmaid.org> > issues > farm-policy > the-late...

## The Latest Updates on the Farm Bill

Feb 22, 2024 – Once again, the dragging out of **appropriations** is leaving little room for **Farm Bill** progress and is shortening the window for action in March.

# Role of Philanthropy in Building a Sustainable and Equitable Food System

- **Relationship building**

- Educate Missouri policymakers at the federal, state, and local level on issues you fund and connect them with your grantees
- Work with agency administrators (such as those in the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development) to increase program accessibility

- **Make public dollars more accessible**

- Funding grant writing support and technical assistance
- Bridge loans for reimbursable federal grant programs

- **Supporting work on the ground**

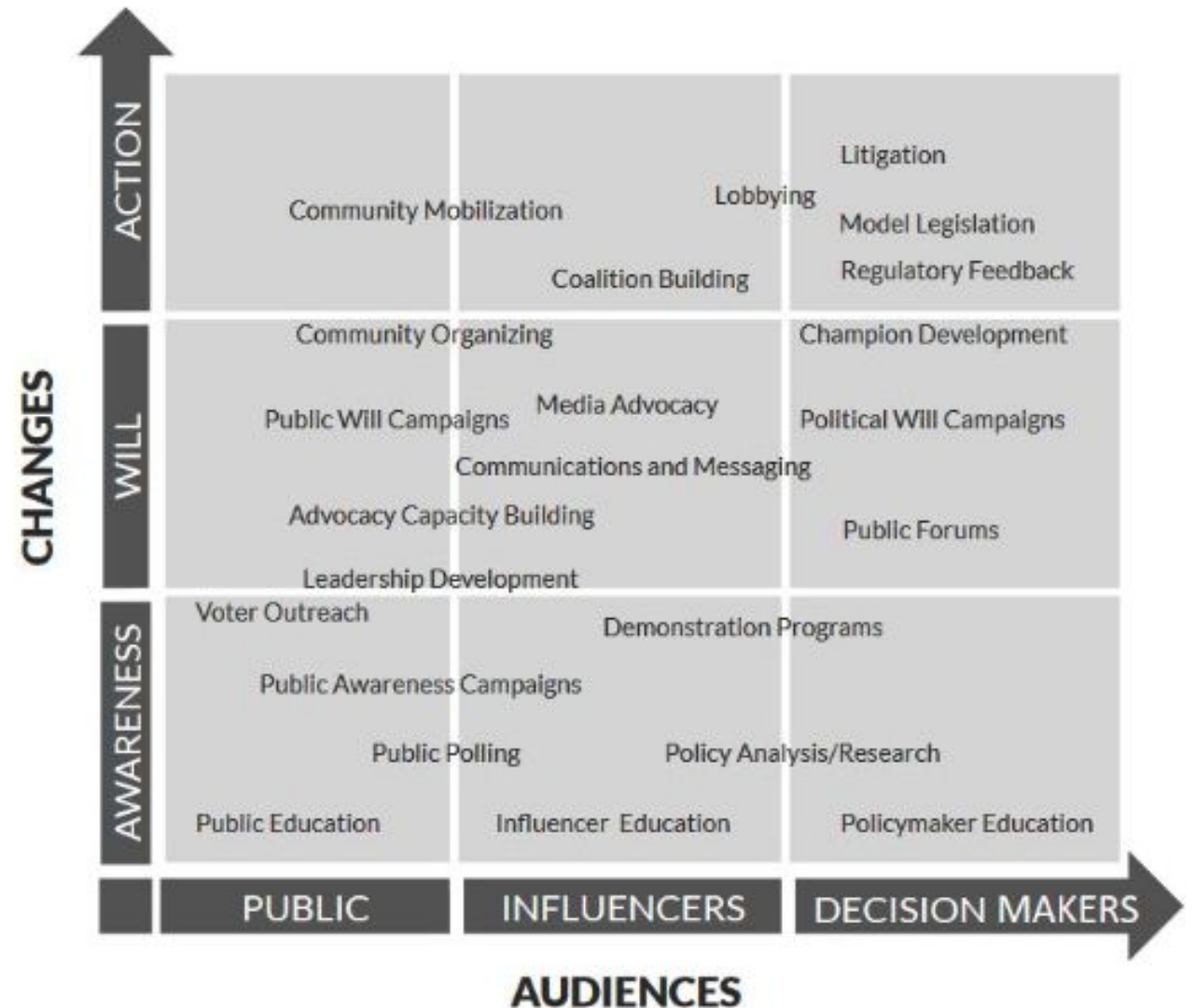
- Connect with food and environmental groups in Missouri
- Incorporate policy advocacy into your grantmaking strategies
- Grants to support grassroots advocacy, issue education initiatives, communications and research





# Current Farm Bill Policy Opportunities for Funders

- Build relationships with Missouri policymakers (especially on the ag committee)
- Provide long-term funding for grantees to engage in farm bill advocacy (such as through general operating support)



# So, Congress passes a Farm Bill... then what?

- **Appropriations process**
  - Allocating discretionary resources to farm bill programs
- **Rulemaking process**
  - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) writes the rules for how Farm Bill programs are implemented.
  - NOTE: Funders can influence the rulemaking process without crossing the lobbying line.
- **Program evaluation**

## Key takeaway

The Farm Bill development process is never truly “over,” but rather always ongoing. **It is always a good time to get involved and uplift the voices of your grantees.**



# **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE** *and* **FOOD SYSTEMS FUNDERS**

**Interested in joining?**

Visit [SAFSF's website](https://safsf.org) or reach out to SAFSF Member and Development Associate [Angie Boone](#) with any questions about membership, engagement or partnership with SAFSF

[safsf.org](https://safsf.org)