



THE FOOD AND FARM ACT

The Farm Bill is the one of the most important yet underappreciated pieces of federal legislation Congress regularly considers. Hopelessly complex and expensive, it sets national priorities for federal investment in our food and farm system, but it gives too much to the wrong people to grow the wrong food in the wrong places.

THE PROBLEM

In short, the Farm Bill misdirects federal resources while undermining human health, nutrition, carbon reduction, economic development, land conservation, and animal welfare. Congress can do better with the next Farm Bill by crafting legislation that redirects spending, promotes healthy food, and provides innovative, performance-based solutions to environmental challenges.

THE SOLUTION

Congressman Blumenauer crafted and introduced the Food and Farm Act, a comprehensive alternative Farm Bill that advances four principles of agricultural reform: (1) focusing resources on those who need it most; (2) fostering innovation; (3) encouraging investments in people and the planet; and (4) ensuring access to healthy foods.

The Food and Farm Act will:

- Cut, cap, and clarify existing farm subsidy programs while increasing access for farmers who grow more than one crop (Title I);
- Expand conservation compliance and reform existing conservation programs to focus on performance to effectively achieve project goals (Title II);
- Ensure our food assistance programs achieve maximum reach and efficacy by adjusting commodity requirements (Title III);
- Increase access to healthy food in food deserts and other underserved areas, schools, and at farmers markets through SNAP and other initiatives (Title IV);
- Provide resources to beginning, retiring farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (Title V);
- Establish a Food Waste Title to better prioritize food waste reduction (Title VI);
- Invest in research programs related to sustainable agriculture and help farmers and ranchers succeed in the face of a changing climate (Title VII);
- Reform USDA research and organic programs to ensure the humane treatment of animals and increase support for pasture-based systems (Title VIII); and
- Expand and reform vibrant local and regional food systems (Title IX).

The result of years of consultation with a wide array of stakeholders, the Food and Farm Act puts farmers, families, and the environment first in our country's food policy.

Endorsements: [Forthcoming]