

Ark INSIDER

FARM
BUREAU
ARKANSAS

May 2026

U.S. House Passes Farm Bill

On April 30, 2026, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 with a bipartisan vote of 224–200. The 802-page bill would reauthorize and update farm bill programs through calendar year 2031. This bill would complete the reauthorization of all farm programs and build on improvements passed in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which included higher reference prices, additional base acres, expanded payment limits and flexibility for farm business structures.

The House's passage of the bill marks the most significant progress on a farm bill since 2018, and comes at a critical time, as Arkansas farmers and ranchers face rising input costs, tight margins and continued economic pressure. The U.S. is still operating under the 2018 farm bill, which expired in 2023 and has been extended for the past three years. While major portions of farm policy were addressed in the 2025 budget reconciliation bill, and are applicable to the 2026 crop, key programs were left unfinished.

To read a detailed overview of the Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026, see the House Agriculture Committee's [title-by-title breakdown](#) of the bill.

Big Picture Impacts for Farmers

The Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026:

- Establishes a standing disaster assistance framework, allowing quicker and more predictable relief
- Targets input cost reduction, including equipment, energy and efficiency investments
- Expands risk management tools, particularly for young, veteran and specialty crop producers
- Strengthens rural infrastructure, workforce support and market access
- Increases focus on research, innovation and conservation

Suspension of Permanent Price Supports

The bill suspends permanent price supports, authorized by farm bills in the 1930s and 1940s, through 2031. Farm Bureau policy supports suspension rather than repeal, because the outdated "parity" system of support creates the necessity of reevaluating farm programs periodically. This approach provides regular opportunities to adapt and modernize programs based upon current production systems and market conditions.



Following is a summary of key points from the House-passed bill that are priority issues for Farm Bureau and are impactful for Arkansas Farmers and ranchers.

Title I: Commodities

The Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 creates standing authority to deliver ad hoc disaster assistance via block grants to states, avoiding the need for congressional action on each disaster and ensures Marketing Assistance Loan funding will be available even if there is a lapse in appropriations. The bill strengthens the Dairy Protection Program by creating a cost of production reporting system to ensure costs are accurately represented. It includes provisions to expand and strengthen the Tree Assistance Program to support producers of trees, vines and shrubs, and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a framework for providing economic hardship support for specialty crop producers.

Title II: Conservation

Many conservation programs were reauthorized and funded by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, but this bill includes the reauthorization of the Conservation Reserve Program and maintains the current acreage cap of 27 million acres through 2031. Additional enhancements were made to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Regional Conservation Partnership Program to incorporate new technologies and streamlined administration, making the programs more valuable and accessible to farmers.



Title III: Trade

The Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 transfers the authorities of the Food for Peace Act to USDA and prioritizes U.S. commodities, reserving 50% of all funds for U.S. grown food and ocean shipping. It also includes funding increases for the Market Access Program, Foreign Market Development, and other trade promotion programs that develop and maintain market access.

Title IV: Nutrition

The Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 creates state-led local food purchasing programs to connect farmers with their local food distribution organizations, prioritizes rural communities, and requires states to improve efficiency and work to detect and report fraud in the .

Title V: Credit

The Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 updates loan limits for USDA credit programs, including guaranteed operating loans up to \$3 million and ownership loans up to \$3.5 million, to enhance financing options for farmers who are unable to obtain credit from a commercial lender. Special provisions create opportunities for young, beginning, and veteran farmers, and provides protections for commercial lenders in rural areas.

Title XI: Crop Insurance

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act provided increased premium subsidies for all coverage levels. This bill directs research and development of policies for crops that currently do not have access to crop insurance, establishes an advisory committee for specialty crop producers and directs research into the private sector delivery system to modernize risk management.

Title XII: Miscellaneous

This bill continues to important provisions to address livestock health by directing the Secretary of Agriculture to work

with the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate animal disease regionalization agreements with trading partners and allows livestock auction owners to invest in packing facilities. This title also addresses California Proposition 12 by limiting state and local regulations on the condition or standard of production of livestock to only livestock physically located within that state or local government jurisdiction.

Other Items of Note:

- Provides funds for rural development grants and loans to support rural communities and businesses
- Provides funds annually for agricultural research and development
- Clarifies congressional intent in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act to establish the Environmental Protection Agency as the sole entity that can impose labeling or packaging requirements on pesticides. States will still be allowed to further regulate pesticides through authority granted in FIFRA.
- The bill does not address year-round sales of E15. A separate vote on a standalone E15 bill is expected soon.

What Happens Next?

The bill now moves to the Senate, where significant revisions are expected. John Boozman, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, has indicated the Senate will work to remove more controversial provisions to secure enough support for passage.

Final passage will require both chambers to reconcile differences, particularly on nutrition funding, conservation priorities and regulatory provisions. While the House vote is a major step forward, negotiations in the coming weeks will determine the final shape of the next farm bill.



Analysis by Brandy Carroll and Tyler Oxner

For more information, contact:

Brandy at (501) 228-1268, brandy.carroll@arfb.com

Tyler at (501) 228-1311, tyler.oxner@arfb.com