

## The 2023 Farm Bill

The 2018 Farm Bill is set to expire on Sept. 30, 2023. While many important programs for farmers are permanently authorized, such as crop insurance, understanding the Farm Bill process is necessary because this legislation not only impacts the daily lives and operations of producers and those in rural America but all United States citizens to a certain extent. The following provides useful information on the Farm Bill and its legislative importance while highlighting the process leading toward its (projected) enactment in 2023.

### WHAT IS A FARM BILL?

The Farm Bill is an omnibus, multi-year law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs. It provides an opportunity for policymakers to address agricultural and food issues comprehensively and periodically. In addition to developing and enacting farm legislation, Congress is involved in overseeing its implementation. The Farm Bill is renewed roughly once every five years. Since the 1930s, Congress has enacted 18 farm bills. Farm bills traditionally have focused on farm commodity program support for a handful of staple commodities— corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, rice, peanuts, dairy, and sugar. Without reauthorization, some farm bill programs , such as nutrition assistance and farm commodity support programs, would expire. Other programs have permanent authority , do not need reauthorization (e.g., crop insurance), and are included in a farm bill to make policy changes or achieve budgetary goals.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT AND WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

The omnibus, bipartisan nature of a farm bill can create broad coalitions of support which, in turn, assist with the implementation of policies that might have had greater difficulty achieving majority support in the legislative process. In recent years, more stakeholders have become involved in the debate on farm bills including national farm groups; commodity associations; state organizations; nutrition and public health officials; and advocacy groups representing conservation, recreation, rural development, faith-based interests, local food systems, and organic production. These factors may contribute to increased interest in the allocation of funds provided in a farm bill.

### VISUAL: WHAT DOES THIS PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

