

In December of 2018, the President signed the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 into law. Though it is referred to as the Farm Bill, this comprehensive piece of legislation effects a much broader range of policies, impacting programs and services well beyond American farmers. Here is a quick list of the various titles in the bill.

## **Title I: Commodity Policies**

This part of the bill addresses the unique production and marketing risks faced by farmers. The various crop insurance options must be selected by each producer and farmers are required to buy into the program with premiums. The Commodity Title provides certainty and predictability to eligible producers by reauthorizing and improving commodity, marketing loan, sugar, dairy, and disaster programs.

## **Title II: Conservation**

The conservation title maintains the core voluntary conservation programs that farmers and ranchers use to improve their productivity and address natural resource concerns. Building upon the 2014 Farm Bill, the 2018 provisions increase program flexibility, expand public-private partnerships to leverage additional private investment in locally-led conservation initiatives, and provide conservation opportunities for farmers and ranchers to help them improve water quality, address drought, enhance wildlife habitat, and address other related natural resource concerns.

## **Title III: Trade**

This section of the Farm Bill addresses policies on U.S. exports of agricultural products in the world marketplace. The bill includes international markets, trade barriers and international food aid programs, provisions of the Food for Peace Act, Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, and other agricultural trade laws.

## **Title IV: Nutrition**

Provisions under this title cover accountability of federal nutrition programs and preservation of the important food assistance programs to families who are in critical need. This includes details of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Commodity Distribution Programs, the seniors farmers' market nutrition program, fresh produce school and service organization food programs, traditional foods in public facilities, food security micro-grants, healthy food and milk incentive programs, and Buy American requirements.

## **Title V: Credit**

This section of the Farm Bill addresses access to credit for farmers through USDA farm ownership and operating loan programs. There are also provisions to assist beginning farmers and family farms and loan options to support conservation measures and practices.

## **Title VI: Rural Development**

Various programs under this title support the rebuilding, development and expansion into the future for rural communities. Included are sections on improving health outcomes, high speed broadband connections and energy savings programs in rural areas. These programs are designed to positively impact rural business development, improvements to rural infrastructure, and community development.

## **Title VII: Research, Extension, And Related Matters**

This title includes funding for critical research initiatives and education, and continuation of the mission and purpose of the 1890-designated Land Grant Colleges.

## **Title VIII: Forestry**

Provisions under this title address forest resources, relating to restoration, wildlife and watershed issues, forest management activities, timber innovation and other related topics.

## **Title IX: Energy**

This title contains programs addressing various energy programs, such as bioenergy programs, rural energy and rural self-sufficiency, carbon utilization and biomass crop assistance.

## **Title X: Horticulture**

This title of the bill provides programs in support of specialty crops, organic production, markets, and certification, hemp production, nursery crops, interstate commerce and other horticultural topics. This agricultural segment provides an increasing economic impact in American agricultural production.

## **Title XI: Crop Insurance**

The crop insurance title covers programs and products that address production and revenue risk management. This includes administrative functioning that maintains the public-private partnership for delivery of crop insurance services.

## **Title XII: Miscellaneous**

Some programs that do not readily fit into any of the other titles of the bill are included in this section. These include programs such as those for socially disadvantaged farmers, livestock producers and workforce development, historically underserved producers, dairy business innovation initiatives, and an array of other agricultural topics.



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