

2018 Farm Bill Conference Report

Talking Points

- House Republicans have championed the needs of rural America, and we've reached a Farm Bill agreement that sets us on a better path — for our farmers and ranchers, for our rural communities, for small businesses, and for consumers across the country at the grocery store.
- The conference report provides the foundation to help America's farmers and ranchers survive a nearly 50-percent drop in net farm income over the past five years — the largest drop since the Great Depression.
- The conference report is a critical part of a comprehensive response to natural disasters and the predatory trading practices of foreign countries, including recent devastating losses due to hurricanes and wildfires, as well as unjustified retaliatory tariffs leveled by foreign governments like China.
- The conference report strengthens the farm safety net and provides certainty and flexibility to America's farmers and ranchers. Important policies like Price Loss Coverage, Agriculture Risk Coverage, Commodity Loans, Dairy Margin Coverage, Livestock Disaster Programs, and Crop Insurance are all maintained and strengthened.
- The conference report invests in critical cost-share and incentive-based programs to help farm families improve our soil, water and other natural resources. The farm bill improves and better coordinates the various voluntary conservation initiatives, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Regional Conservation Partnerships Program (RCPP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and a complement of other streamlined conservation initiatives.
- The conference report enhances and permanently funds the Foreign Market Development program, the Market Access Program, and other trade initiatives designed to promote U.S. agricultural exports.
- The conference report preserves in-kind U.S. food aid to provide emergency feeding and development assistance around the world.
- The conference report makes improvements to the nation's largest anti-hunger program (SNAP) to improve program integrity and incentivize work, while also laying the groundwork for improved SNAP policy by the administration and in future farm bills.
- The conference report strengthens USDA's capacity to combat the opioid crisis.
- The conference report refocuses our efforts to expand quality broadband to all of rural America.
- The conference report improves the tools available to reduce forest fuel loads that otherwise increase the size and force of catastrophic wildfires.
- The conference report improves and expands credit for farmers and ranchers.

- The conference report increases funding for land grant universities, research, extension, and education, as well as special research initiatives, including for specialty crops, organics and citrus.
- The conference report expands uses for agricultural commodities and full funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and other horticulture initiatives.
- The conference report invests in animal disease prevention and management efforts, including the stockpiling of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine.
- The conference report keeps faith with struggling farmers and ranchers while honoring deficit reduction commitments made under the 2014 Farm Bill.
- There are a lot of wins for rural America in this bill. House Republicans said we would champion the hardworking families who feed and clothe us and much of the world, and we have kept our word.
- In extremely difficult economic times in farm and ranch country and rural America and under tight fiscal constraints, the 2018 Farm Bill provides certainty, most especially to the American families who work every day to put food on our tables and clothes on our backs in a manner that is unrivaled in history.