# 2026 FARM BILL – MODERNIZING AG POLICY FOR A NEW ERA

## NCFC POSITION:

NCFC supports passage of a farm bill 2.0 to reauthorize critical programs that remain outstanding from the 2018 Farm Bill. Many of these programs provide essential support for U.S. agriculture.

## ACTION:

With the passage of the reconciliation bill in 2025, many core elements of traditional farm bill policy have been addressed, including farm program payments and key crop insurance provisions. However, a new farm bill is needed to address several outstanding items before the latest extension of key program authorities expires on September 30, 2026.

This includes suspending permanent price support for the duration of the bill, a step required to replace the 1930s and 1940s individual commodity support programs with the new reference prices. Additionally, key credit, rural development, and beginning farmer provisions need to receive necessary authorizations and support.

NCFC is advocating for farmer-owned cooperatives to be eligible to leverage federal programs for the benefit of their farmer members. This includes preserving the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program in its current form and expanding eligibility for farmer-owned cooperatives to participate in the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). We also encourage support for strengthening the Buy American requirements in the school meals program to ensure federal taxpayer dollars support our domestic agricultural economy and that children are being served safe, quality meals.

## CURRENT STATUS:

Earlier this year, the House Agriculture Committee marked up the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act* of 2026, introduced by Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson (R-PA). The package suspends outdated permanent law; reauthorizes USDA credit authorities, including FSA direct and guaranteed loans; updates programs serving beginning farmers; and increases support for rural development and energy programs.

Of special interest to farmer co-ops, the committee adopted an amendment offered by Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD) that would enhance the ability of farmer co-ops to access the REAP program. This has been a key priority of NCFC in the farm bill process.

On April 30, 2026, the House passed the farm bill by a vote of 224 to 200. With 14 Democrats voting for the bill, the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act* of 2026 obtained the highest number of votes from the minority party on a House farm bill since 2008.

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In the Senate, Agriculture Committee Chair John Boozman (R-AR) circulated a "discussion draft" of a farm bill in late May. At the time, the chairman indicated that he hoped to work with committee members on both sides of the aisle to develop a bipartisan proposal ahead of a planned markup in mid-July.

## BACKGROUND:

The 2018 Farm Bill, originally set to expire in 2023, is operating under a series of extensions.

NCFC appreciates the significant investment in production agriculture included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) and stresses the importance of aligning that investment with a timely, comprehensive reauthorization of the farm bill that provides long-term certainty through 2031. NCFC urges Congress to complete the farm bill 2.0 reauthorization process as soon as possible to ensure these investments are effectively integrated into a coherent, predictable policy framework that allows farmers and their cooperatives to plan, invest, and compete in the global marketplace. As discussions progress, NCFC continues to advocate for farmer-owned cooperative priorities and ensure that the unique role of farmer-owned businesses is recognized in any final package.

July 2026

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