

# 2018 Farm Bill Updates



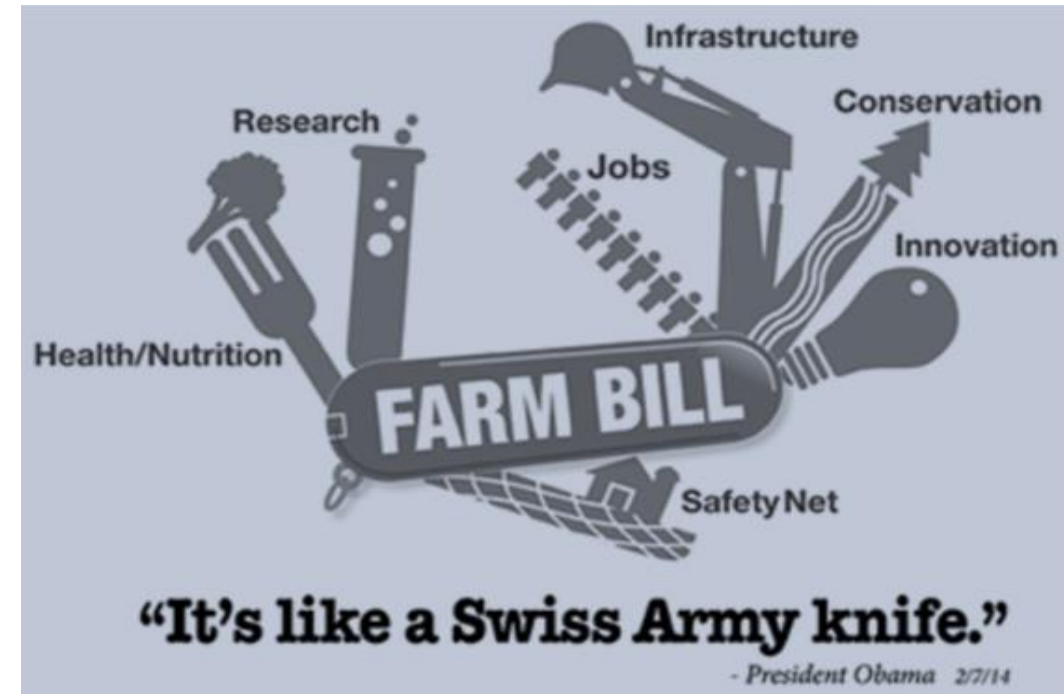
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# What We'll Cover Today

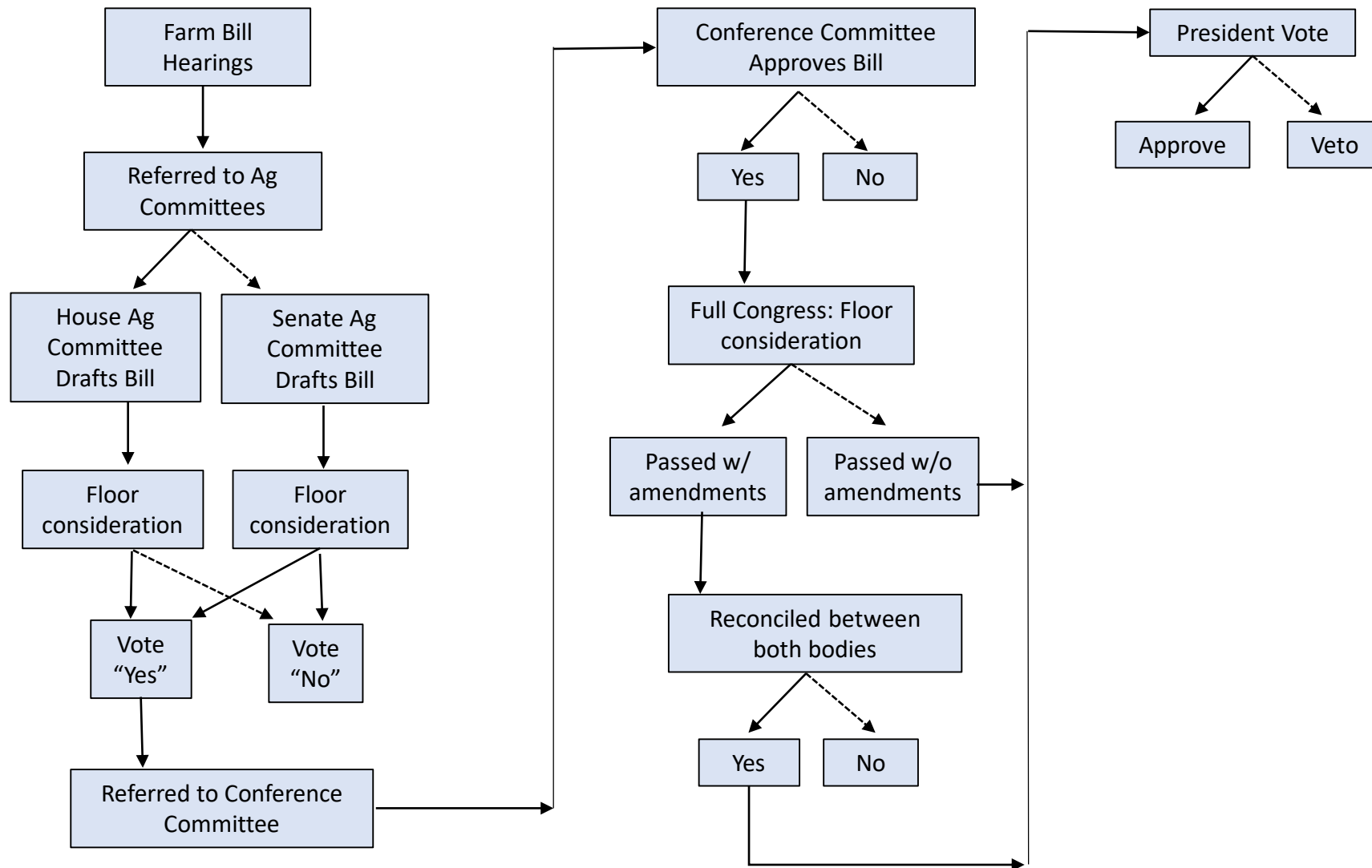
- What is The Farm Bill?
- The Farm Bill reauthorization process
- Funding in The Farm Bill
- Upcoming proposals for the 2018 Farm Bill
- Where to find proposed and/or current legislation
- How can you educate policymakers about issues in the 2018 Farm Bill?

# What is the Farm Bill?

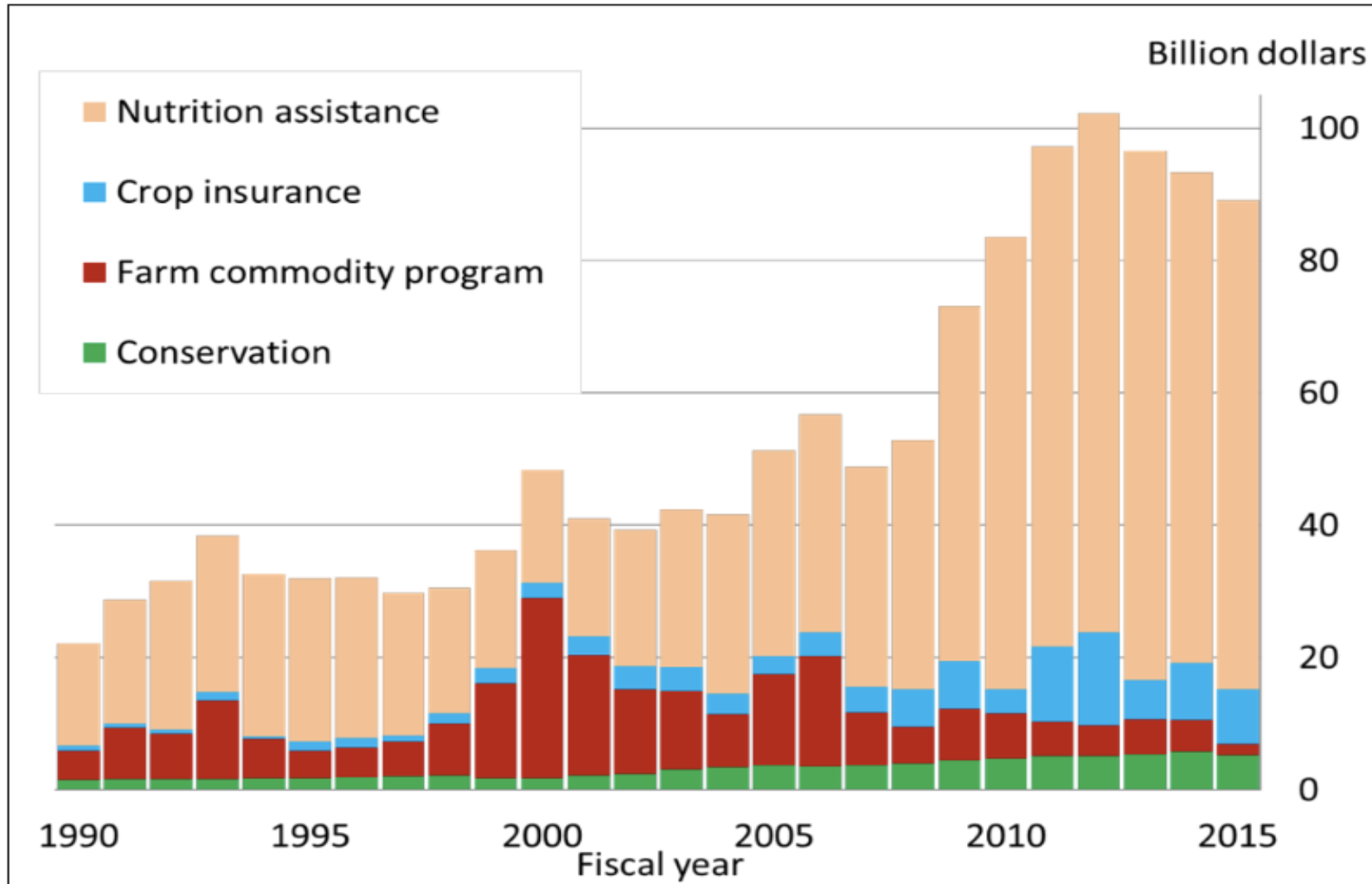
- Law that governs agricultural, nutrition, and food assistance programs
- Passed every 5 years by Congress (known as the “Reauthorization process”) – next reauthorization is in 2018
- Administered by the USDA
- Topics include food assistance programs, commodity crop prices, conservation, research, rural development, and bioenergy



# Farm Bill Reauthorization Process

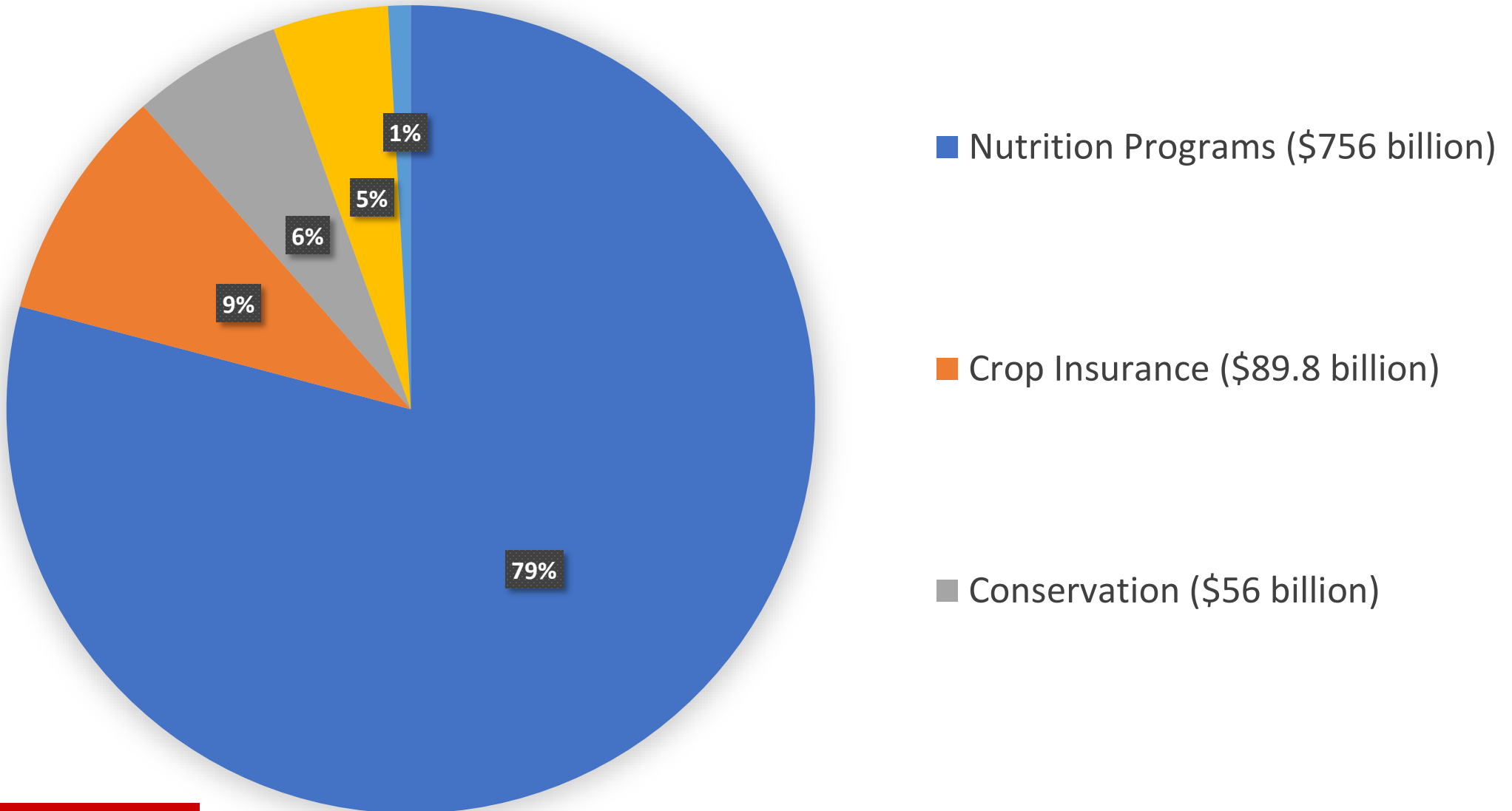


# Farm Bill Spending by Major Programs



Source: CRS, using USDA data, including USDA Farm Service Agency, "Table 35," Agricultural Outlook; USDA Risk Management Agency, "Program Costs and Outlays by Fiscal Year"; J. Glauber, "Crop Insurance Reconsidered," American Journal of Agricultural Economics, 2004; USDA Farm Service Agency, "Output 3," Commodity Estimates Book; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, "Soil and Water Conservation Expenditures, 1935-2010," 2011; and USDA Food and Nutrition Service, "National Level Annual Summary, Participation and Costs."

# What's in the Farm Bill (Projected Costs from 2014-2023)



# Trump's Proposed Budget Cuts to The Farm Bill

- USDA would get 21% cut discretionary funding (\$47 billion over 10 years)
  - Discretionary funding includes programs related to research, rural development, and nutrition programs (funding expires December 8, 2017)
  - Largest cuts for SNAP (\$193 billion over 10 years)
  - Making SNAP a block-grant to states, and requiring states to match as much as 25% of the program's costs by 2023
  - Requiring SNAP retailers to pay an application fee
  - Eliminating conservation programs, Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, and Specialty Crop Block Grants
- Proposes to “reopen” The Farm Bill to make wide range of changes
- Analysts suggest Trump's proposed changes would be “dead on arrival”



# How Can You Track Farm Bill Legislation?

- Go to <https://www.govtrack.us> and select “Food and Agriculture”
- Write topic name in “search” button

The screenshot shows the govtrack.us homepage. At the top, there are navigation links: Home, Congress, Track, About Us, and Log In. The main heading is "Track the United States Congress!". Below this, there is a section for finding representatives and senators based on an address, with a search box containing "415 N. Main St., Hannibal, Missouri" and a "Find My Reps" button. Below that, there is a section for finding legislation by subject area, with a dropdown menu set to "Agriculture and Food" and a "Find Legislation" button. A red circle highlights the "Find Legislation" button and the "Agriculture and Food" dropdown menu.

The screenshot shows the search filters on the govtrack.us website. The "Search" section is highlighted with a red circle. It includes a search box with "snap" entered and a "SEARCH" button. Below the search box, there are several filter categories: "congress" (set to "115th Congress: 201"), "current status" (with "All" selected), "cosponsor" (set to "All"), "committee" (set to "All"), "subject" (set to "Agriculture and Food"), "subject 2" (set to "All"), "party of sponsor" (set to "All"), and "bill or resolution type" (with "All" selected).

The screenshot shows the search results for "snap" on the govtrack.us website. The results are listed in a table format, showing the bill number, title, sponsor, introduction date, and prognosis. The results are:

Bill Number	Title	Sponsor	Introduced	Prognosis
H.R. 3841	SNAP Vitamin and Mineral Improvement Act of 2017	Rep. Mike Rogers [R-AL3]	Sep 26, 2017	13%
H.R. 2684	SNAP Work Opportunities Act of 2017	Rep. Suzan DelBene [D-WA1]	May 25, 2017	1%
S. 1708	A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide that certain students who are family caregivers are eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.	Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand [D-NY]	Aug 2, 2017	1%
H.R. 1189	Anti-hunger Empowerment Act of 2017	Rep. José Serrano [D-NY15]	Feb 16, 2017	1%
H.R. 3749	SNAP Standard Medical Expense Deduction Act of 2017	Rep. Al Lawson [D-FL5]	Sep 12, 2017	1%
S. 1707	SNAP Standard Medical Expense Deduction Act of 2017	Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand [D-NY]	Aug 2, 2017	1%



# Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- SNAP Retailer Rule

	Number of Staple Food Categories	Number of Staple Food Varieties per Category (Variety)	Number of Stocking Units per Variety (Depth of Stock)	Number of Food Items Required	Number Perishable Foods in Staple Food Categories	Percent of Food Sales Coming from Prepared Foods	Multiple Ingredient Foods	Accessory Foods
<b>Final rule requirements (July 2017)</b>	4 (vegetables/ fruits; dairy; meat/ poultry/fish; bread or cereals)	7	3	84	3	50%	Counts if the product's main ingredient is a staple food item	Does not count

# Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education)
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

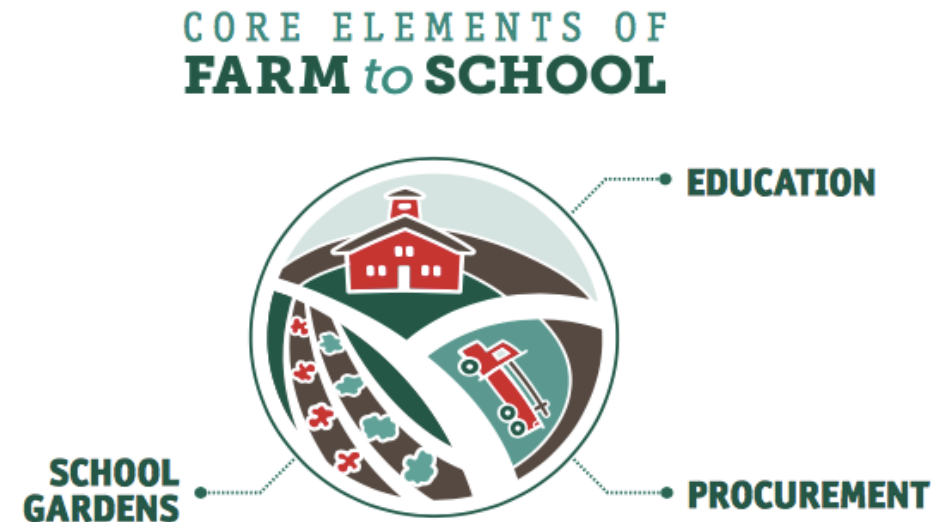


# The Local FARMS Act

- Solidifies funding for local foods system programs in the Farm Bill
- Brings together the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and the Value-Added Producer Grants Program
- Stabilizes money for the Organic Cost Share Certification Program
  - This program assists farmers in transitioning to organic production
- Makes it easier for schools to procure locally- and regionally-produced food
- Expands the ability of rural development and farm service agency grants and loan programs to be used to support livestock, dairy and poultry supply chain infrastructure

# Farm to School Act of 2017

- Increases annual mandatory funding from \$5 million to \$15 million
- Improves program participation for beginning, veteran & socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers by providing TA and research to potential applicants
- Expands grant scope to include early care and education sites, summer food service program sites, and after school programs in the program
- Increasing access among tribal schools to farm-fresh and traditional foods, especially from tribal producers



# Not in The Farm Bill – But Still Important! Update: Child Nutrition Reauthorization

- Senate bill generally keeps nutrition standards from 2010 intact, except for the following:
  - HFFKA rules requiring all grains be 100% whole grain rich has been scaled back to 80% whole grain rich HFFKA rules required all grains served to be “whole grain rich”
  - Schools get more time to implement sodium Target 2 limits, and there is a hold on the final sodium target limits until further research

- House bill introduced some of the following changes:
  - HFFKA rules requiring all grains be 100% whole grain-rich has been scaled back to 80% whole grain-rich
  - Schools get more time to implement sodium Target 2 limits, and there is a hold on the final sodium target limits until further research
  - Requires USDA to review and update federal nutrition standards every 3 years
  - Repeals ban on student bake sales
  - Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program is no longer required to offer “fresh” produce

# Child Nutrition Reauthorization is Dead – So What Now?

- Congress could not agree on CNR legislation last year
- Most of the programs continue to operate “as is”, such as the include National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
  - These programs operate with appropriated funding (currently provided by [P.L. 115-31](#)).
- A number of programs' authorizations of appropriations ended after September 30, 2015 including WIC
  - Programs with an expired authorization of appropriations can continue to operate as long as funding is provided.
  - The FY2017 omnibus appropriations law allows WIC to continue to operate

# How Can You Educate or Advocate For Your Interests?

- Call and or visit your Congressman first!
  - Most helpful to contact those on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees

## Previous Senate Ag Committee Member

Senator Tillis  
(R-NC)



Washington, DC: (202) 224-6342  
Raleigh: (919) 856-4630

## Current Ag House Committee Members

Representative Rouzer  
(R-NC 7<sup>th</sup> District)



Washington, DC: (202) 225-2731  
Brunswick County: (910) 253-6111  
Johnston County: (919) 938-3040  
New Hanover County: : (910) 395-0202

Representative Adams  
(D-NC 12<sup>th</sup> District)



Washington, DC: 202-225-1510  
Mecklenburg County: 704-344-9950



# Questions?



# Resources

- Congressional Research Service. What is the Farm Bill? 2017. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS22131.pdf>
- Union of Concerned Scientists: Informing Policy and Influencing Decision Makers. [http://www.ucsusa.org/action/science\\_network/science-network-workshop-series.html#.WePNwK3Myrc](http://www.ucsusa.org/action/science_network/science-network-workshop-series.html#.WePNwK3Myrc)
- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. WHAT IS THE FARM BILL? <http://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/campaigns/fbcampaign/what-is-the-farm-bill/>
- Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI). <http://rafiusa.org/farmbill/>
- Bipartisan Policy Center. New BPC SNAP Task Force to Address Ways to Strengthen Nutrition in SNAP. <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/press-release/new-bpc-snap-task-force/>.
- USDA. Secretary Perdue Announces USDA Improvements for Customer Service & Efficiency. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2017/09/07/secretary-perdue-announces-usda-improvements-customer-service>