

Sent to House and Senate Ag Committee Members and Leadership

America's agriculture, conservation, rural development, finance, forestry, energy, trade and crop insurance companies and organizations strongly urge you to complete a farm bill as soon as possible. This important legislation supports our nation's farmers, ranchers, forest owners, food security, natural resources and wildlife habitats, rural communities, and the 16 million Americans whose jobs directly depend on the agriculture industry.

Farm bills represent a delicate balance between America's farm, nutrition, conservation, and other priorities, and accordingly require strong bipartisan support from both houses of Congress.

For decades, the threat of reinstatement of the long-outdated policies of the 1938 and 1949 acts have served as strong motivation for Congress to enact new farm bills. Repealing those acts and making the 2013 farm bill commodity title permanent law could make it difficult to generate sufficient political pressure to adjust the commodity safety net provisions should conditions in production agriculture change. As recently as December, the threat of reverting to permanent law was the critical element that forced the last Congress to pass an extension of the current farm bill when it proved impossible to complete action on the new five-year farm bill – an action that provided important safety net programs for 2013 and ensured Congress would have time this year to consider comprehensive reforms that will contribute billions to deficit reduction.

We also are concerned that if the 2013 farm bill's Title I is made permanent, other important farm and rural programs covered in other titles would risk not being reauthorized if the bill expires after five years. If this should occur and we revert to "permanent" law, then programs covering conservation, forestry, research, energy, rural development, horticulture, trade, etc., could be left to the will of the appropriations process, likely with limited funding and little opportunity to update or adjust to meet changing needs in agriculture and rural communities.

We also fear that a farm bill without a meaningful nutrition title will make it difficult, if not impossible, for the House and Senate to reach a bipartisan agreement on a final version that can be signed by the president. We urge you to move forward on a unified farm bill that continues the "marriage" between the nutrition and farm communities and preserves a five-year authorization for all programs. Developing and adopting comprehensive farm legislation has been an effective, balanced arrangement for decades that has ensured all Americans and our nation benefit from the farm bill.

We stand ready to work with you to complete passage of the new five-year farm bill.

Organization

1st Farm Credit Services

25x'25

Academy of Nutrition Dietetics

ACDI/VOCA

AgCountry Farm Credit Services

AgHeritage Farm Credit Services

AgriBank

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Agri-Mark Dairy Cooperative

Agro-Culture LIQUID Fertilizers

Alabama Soybean & Corn Association

Alabama Watermelon Association

Alaska Farmers Union

Almond Hullers & Processors Association

American Agriculture Movement, Inc.

American Agri-Women

American Association for Mycobacterial Diseases

American Association of Avian Pathologists

American Association of Crop Insurers

American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners

American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

American Beekeeping Federation

American Bird Conservancy

American Coalition for Ethanol

American Dairy Goat Association

American Dairy Science Association

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Farmers and Ranchers

American Farmland Trust

American Feed Industry Association

American Forest Foundation

American Goat Federation

American Mushroom Institute

American Pulse Association

American Seed Trade Association

American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers

American Soybean Association

American Veterinary Medical Association

Animal Health Institute

Arizona Farm Bureau Federation

Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation

Arkansas Farmers Union

Associated Milk Producers Inc.

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Association of State Floodplain Managers
Audubon
Badgerland Financial
California Agricultural Irrigation Association
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Bean Shippers Association
California Citrus Mutual
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Farmers Union
California Grape and Tree Fruit League
California State Floral Association
California Warehouse Association
Cherry Marketing Institute
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs
Colorado Wheat Growers Association
Continental Dairy Products
Cranberry Institute
Dairy Farmers of America
Dairy Farmers Working Together
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
Entomological Society of America
Falmouth Cooperative Co.
Farm Credit Council
Farm Credit Mid-America
Farm Credit Services of America
Farm Credit Services of Illinois
Farm Credit Services of Mandan
Farm Credit Services of North Dakota
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Florida Tomato Exchange
Florida Watermelon Association
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Watermelon Association
Great Plains Canola Association
GreenStone Farm Credit Services
Growth Energy
Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition
Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy
Holstein Association USA, Inc.

Idaho Grain Producers Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Soybean Association
Independent Beef Association of North Dakota
Independent Community Bankers Association
Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.
Indiana Farmers Union
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Indiana-Illinois Watermelon Association
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Iowa Soybean Association
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Farmers Union
Kansas Seed Industry Association
Kansas Soybean Association
Kansas Wildlife Federation
Kentucky Soybean Association
Land Trust Alliance
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.
Maryland Grain Producers Association
Maryland Pork Producers Association
Maryland-Delaware Watermelon Association
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Apple Association
Michigan Bean Commission
Michigan Bean Shippers
Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Farmers Union
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Michigan Soybean Association
Michigan State University
Mid Atlantic Soybean Association
Midwest Dairy Coalition
Mid-West Dairymen's Company
Midwest Environmental Advocates
Midwestern Legislative Conference
Milk Producers Council
Minnesota Association of Barley Growers
Minnesota Canola Council

Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Mississippi Land Trust
Mississippi River Trust
Missouri Dairy Association
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
Missouri Farmers Union
Montana Agricultural Business Association
Montana Farmers Union
Multistate Initiative on Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Farmer Elected Committees
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils
National Association of State Conservation Agencies
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Center for Frontier Communities
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Conservation District Employees Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Farmers Organization
National Farmers Union
National Grange
National Grape Cooperative Association Inc.
National Milk Producers Federation
National Potato Council
National Sunflower Association
National Watermelon Association
National Wildlife Federation
Nebraska Farmers Union
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
Nebraska Dry Bean Commission
Nebraska Dry Bean Growers Association
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nebraska Wheat Board
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
Nevada Farm Bureau

New England Farmers Union
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association
New York Farm Bureau
New York State Wine Grape Growers
New York Wine & Grape Foundation
North Carolina Farm Bureau
North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association
North Carolina Watermelon Association
North Dakota Farmers Union
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
Northharvest Bean Growers Association
Northeast States Association for Agriculture Stewardship
Northern Canola Growers Association
Northern Great Plains Working Group
Northern Pulse Growers Association
Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Ohio Farmers Union
Oklahoma Farmers Union
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Partners of the Americas
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Farmers Union
Pheasants Forever
POET Biorefining
Pollinator Partnership
Poultry Science Association
Produce Marketing Association
Progressive Farm Credit Services
Quail Forever
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
Scenic Central Milk Producers Cooperative
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
Soil and Water Conservation Society
South Carolina Watermelon Association
South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
South Dakota Farm Bureau

South Dakota Farmers Union
South Dakota Soybean Association
South Dakota Wheat Incorporated
State Agriculture and Rural Leaders
Tennessee Clean Water Network
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Soybean Association
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas Farmers Union
Texas International Produce Association
Texas Seed Trade Association
Texas Vegetable Association
Texas Watermelon Association
The Conservation Fund
The Nature Conservancy
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
United Dairymen of Arizona
United FCS
United Fresh Produce Association
United States Animal Health Association
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.
US Apple Association
US Canola Association
US Cattlemen's Association
US Dry Bean Council
US Meat Export Federation
US Pea and Lentil Trade Association
USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council
Utah Farmers Union
Virginia Soybean Association
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington Farmers Union
Washington State Dairy Federation
Weed Science Society of America
Welch Food's Inc., a Cooperative
Western Bean Dealers Association
Western Growers
Western Pea and Lentil Growers Association
Western State Council of Farmer Cooperatives
Western United Dairymen
Western Watermelon Association
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine
Wildlife Mississippi

Wine Institute
WineAmerica, Inc.
Winrock International
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Wisconsin Soybean Association
Women Involved in Farm Economics
World Wildlife Fund
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association