

EXCLUSIVE LIVE WEBINAR

# The Farm Bill: Implications for the Food System and Dietetic Practice

PRESENTED BY

Christina Badaracco  
MPH, RDN, LDN

December 7, 2022  
2-3pm ET



EARN  
1 CEU

# Disclosures

- The faculty and the planners for this event have no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose.
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This activity will also award credit for dietetics (CDR CPEU).

# Learning Objectives

1. Identify influences behind the creation and evolution of the Farm Bill throughout US history.
2. Explain the impacts of the current state of the US agricultural system on societal, economic, environmental, and health factors.
3. Recommend modifications to our federal food and agricultural policies (including the Farm Bill itself) to improve human health and environmental sustainability.
4. Implement strategies in daily practice that advocate for and support food and farming systems that promote better health.

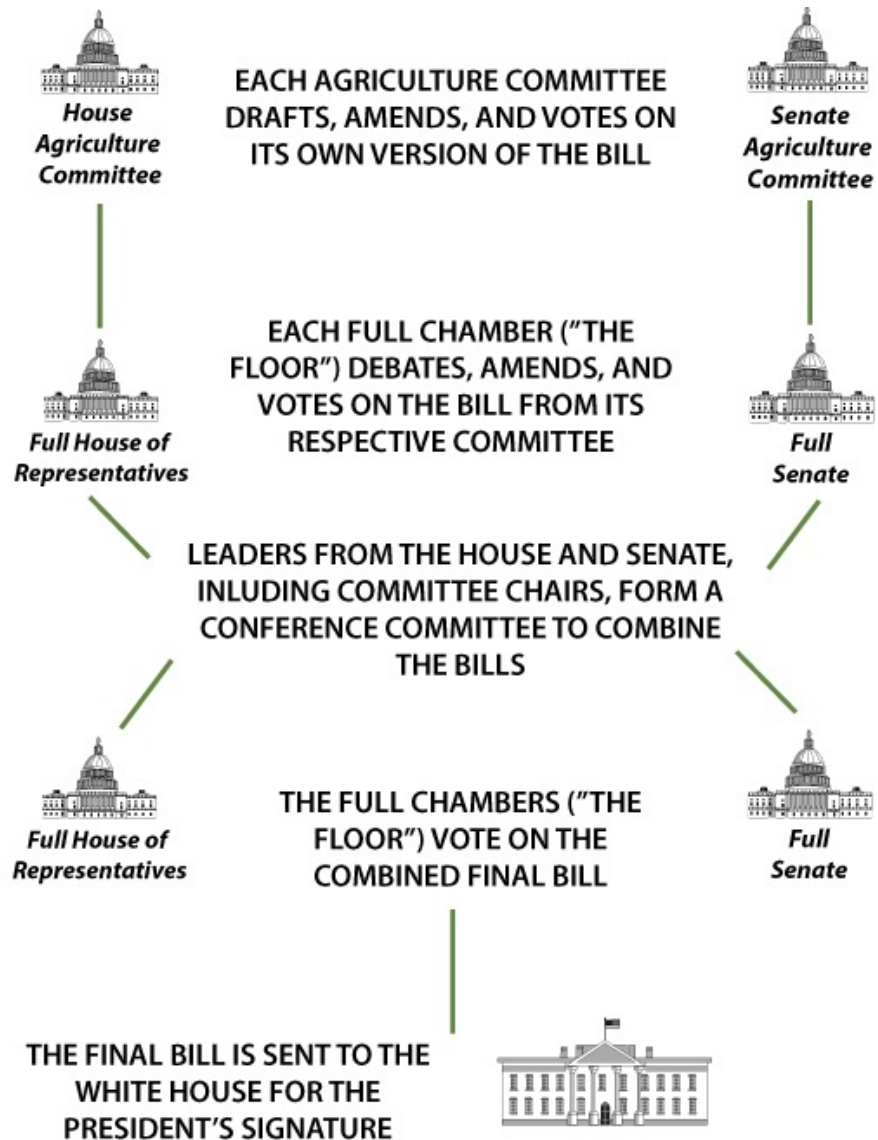
# What We'll Cover Today

- Overview of the Farm Bill
  - Structure
  - History and updates
  - Far-reaching effects
- Disconnect Between the Farm Bill and Healthy Food
  - Food supply and DGAs
  - Promoting nutrition through SNAP
- Current Areas of Debate
- Roles of RDNs in Supporting Sustainable Food Systems and Policies

# The Farm Bill

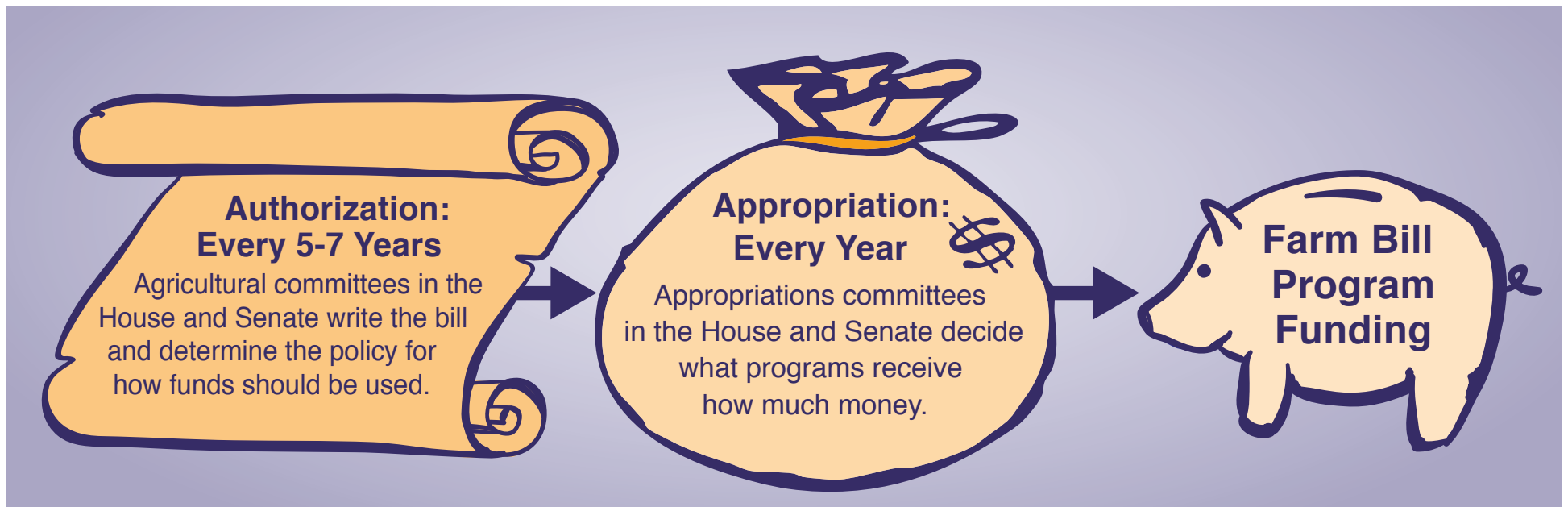
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# How Farm Bills Are Passed and Funded



Graphic used with permission. What is the Farm Bill? National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. <https://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/campaigns/fbcampaign/what-is-the-farm-bill/>

# How Farm Bills Are Passed and Funded



Graphic used with permission from Island Press.



# How the Farm Bill Spends a Dollar

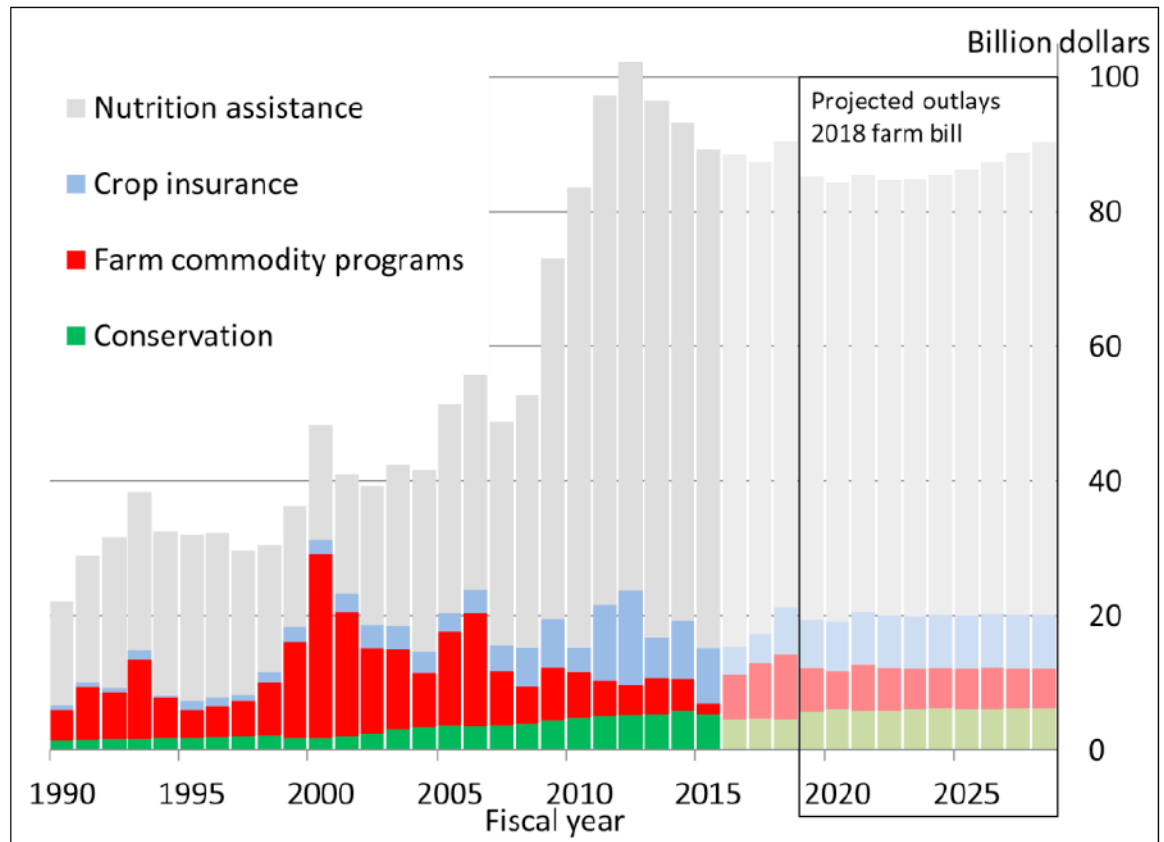


## Farm Bill Titles

- I. Commodities
- II. Conservation
- III. Trade
- IV. Nutrition
- V. Credit
- VI. Rural Development
- VII. Research
- VIII. Forestry
- IX. Energy
- X. Horticulture
- XI. Crop Insurance
- XII. Miscellaneous

Graphic used with permission from Island Press.

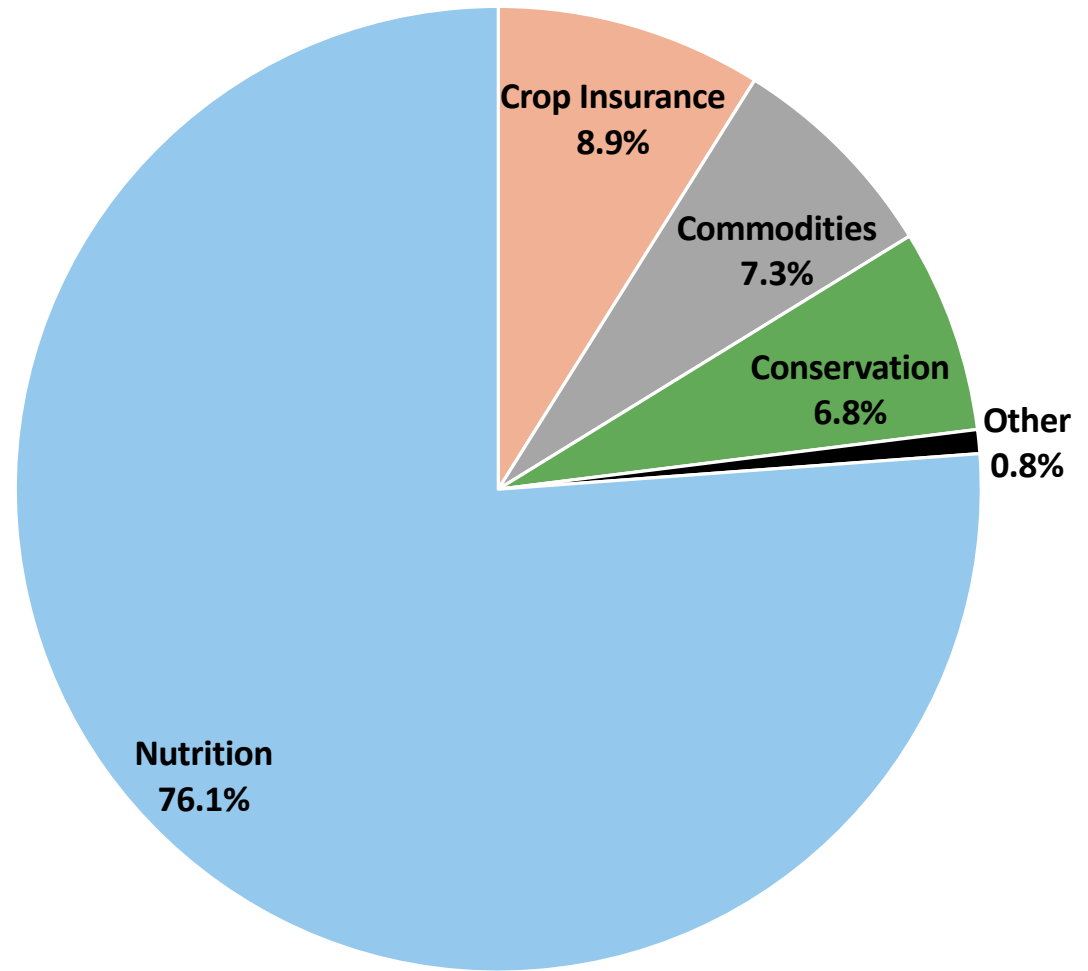
# Spending by Major Farm Bill Programs



**Source:** CRS.

**Notes:** Darker shades of each color are actual outlays based on USDA data. Lighter shades are CBO data, including estimates for FY2017-FY2018 and CRS analysis of CBO data for projections at enactment of the 2018 farm bill.

# Projected Spending Under 2018 Farm Bill



USDA, Economic Research Service, based on Congressional Budget Office, Direct Spending Effects for the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. December 11, 2018.

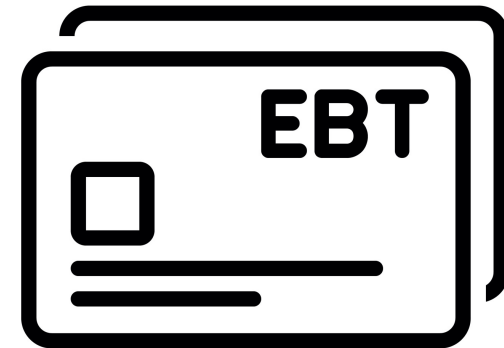
# Top Farm Bill Titles

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## Top Four Titles

### IV. **Nutrition** assistance for low-income households

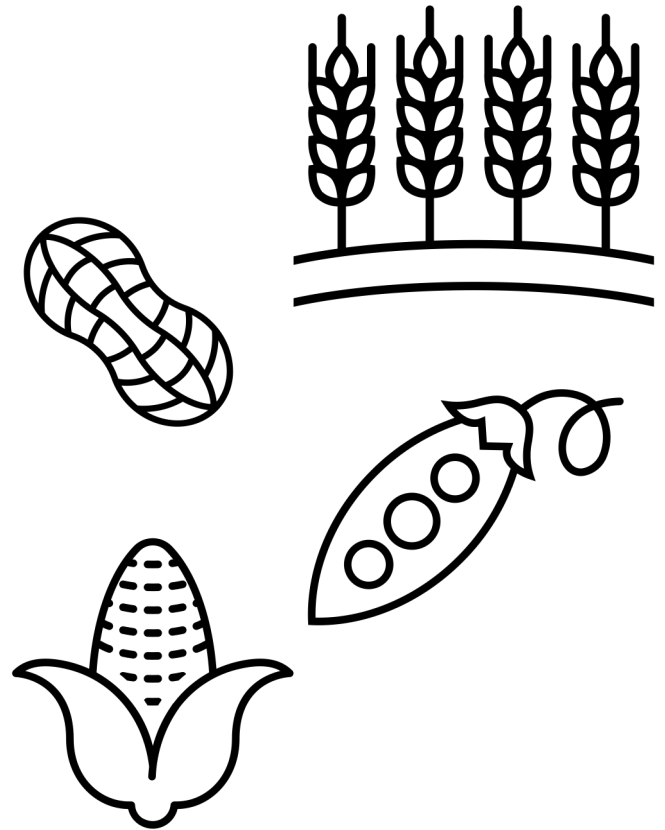
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
- Etc.



## Top Four Titles (cont'd)

I. **Commodity** programs that cover low prices or revenues for commodities

- Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
- Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)
- Marketing Assistance Loan Program
- Dairy Margin Coverage
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program



## Top Four Titles (cont'd)

### XI. Crop insurance as a shared risk management tool

- Federal Crop Insurance Program
- Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX)
- Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO)
- Whole Farm Revenue Protection

**Federal  
Crop Insurance  
on C O R N**  
(Dollar Coverage Insurance)

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation offers in designated counties insurance of a major part of the costs of producing corn against losses due to unavoidable causes such as:

Drought	Rain
Insect Infestation	Plant Diseases
Hail	Wind
Frost	Flood

It DOES NOT insure against losses from avoidable causes such as neglect, poor farming practices, domestic animals, or break-down of machinery.

A Federal crop-insurance premium buys protection of the “out-of-pocket” costs in producing a corn crop, from planting through harvest.

It adds only a little to operating costs to insure against the production hazards which man cannot control. Crop-insurance premiums are deductible as operating costs for income tax purposes.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION**

**PA-42. Issued January 1948.**

# Top Four Titles (cont'd)

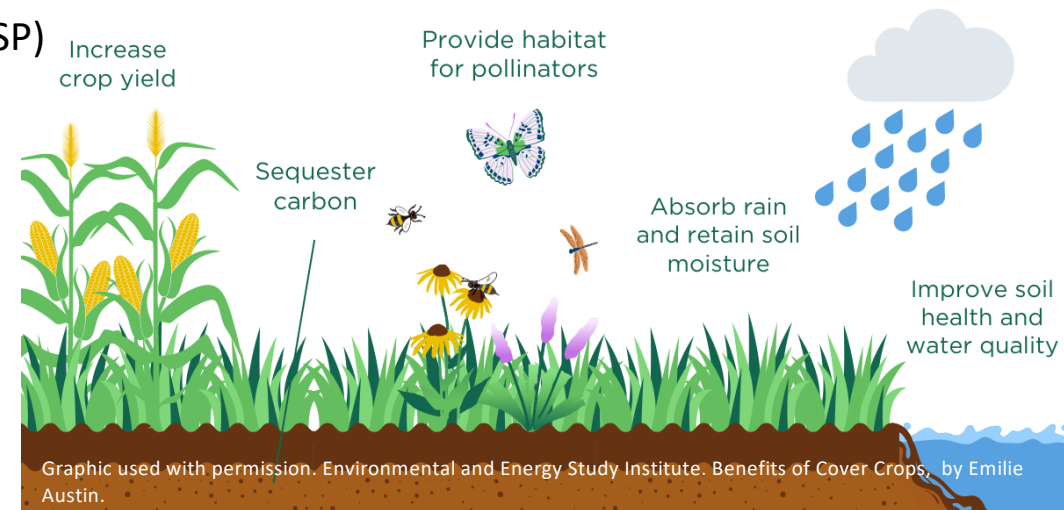
## II. Conservation programs that cover working lands or set-asides

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Etc.

Bertrand S, Roberts AS, Walker E. Cover Crops for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. Agriculture and Climate Series.  
<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/cover-crops-for-climate-change-adaptation-and-mitigation#:~:text=Building%20Climate%20Resilience&text=This%20makes%20crops%20more%20resilient,reduces%20the%20need%20for%20fertilizers>



## Benefits of Cover Crops





## Remaining Titles

**III. Trade:** Supports export programs and international food aid

**V. Credit:** Loans for farmers and ranchers

**VI. Rural Development:** Supports rural business/community development

**VII. Research:** Supports research and extension

**VIII. Forestry:** Supports forestry management

**IX. Energy:** Supports on-farm sustainable energy production

**X. Horticulture:** Grants for specialty crops and organic agriculture

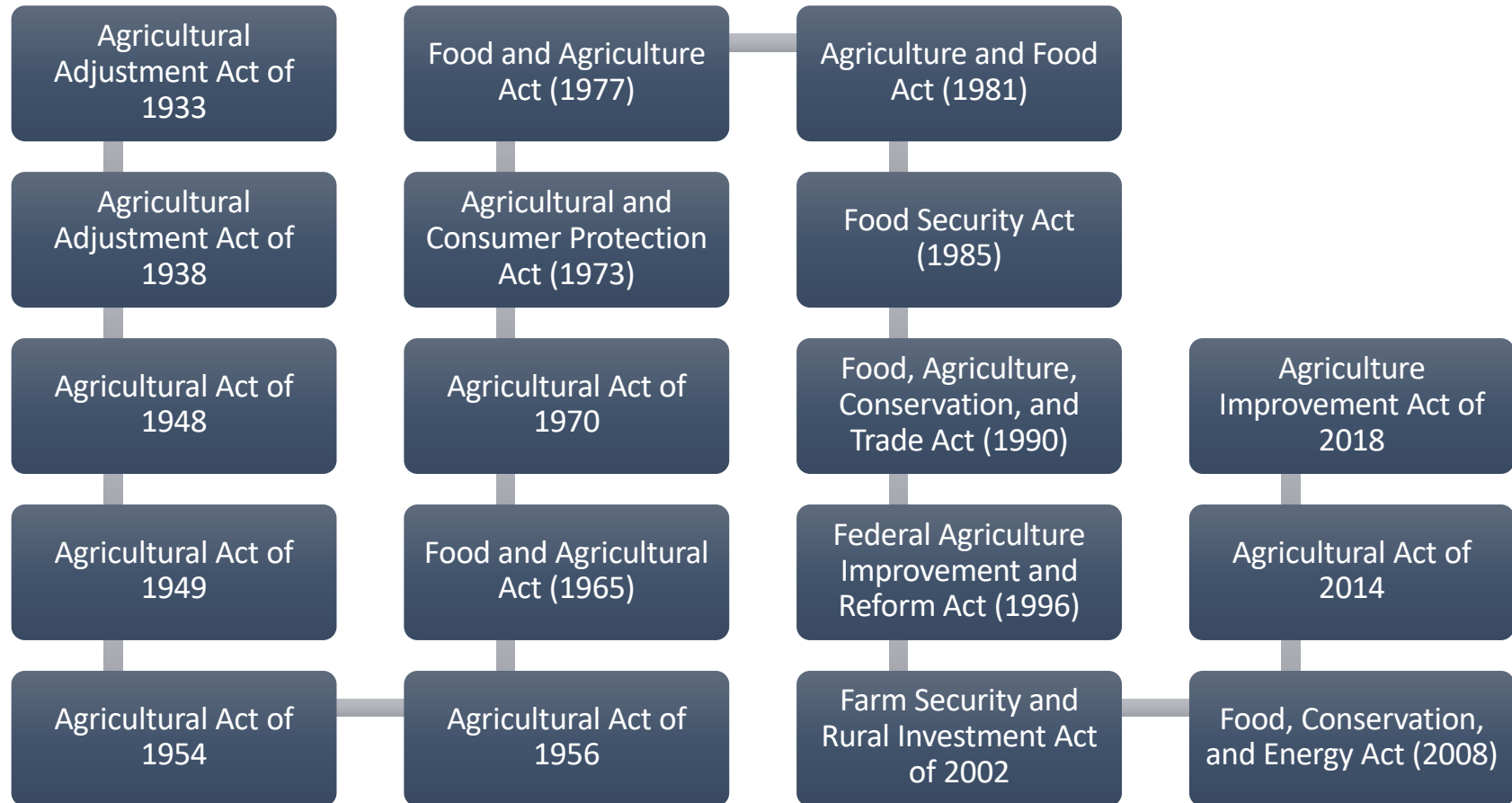
**XII. Miscellaneous:** Livestock, poultry, disadvantaged farmers, etc.

# The History of Farm Bills

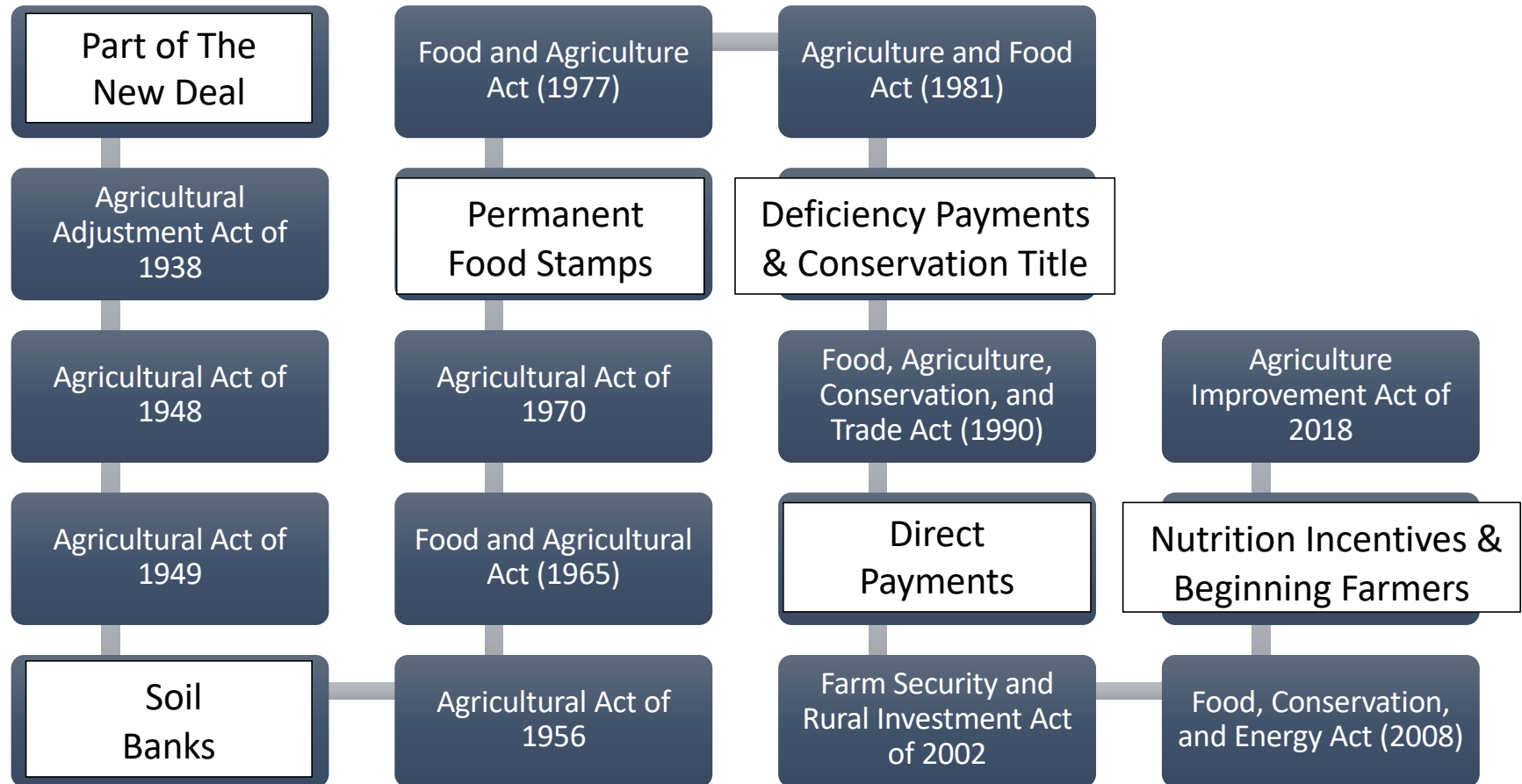
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*Plus, Updates and Far-Reaching Effects*

# History of Farm Bills



# History of Farm Bills



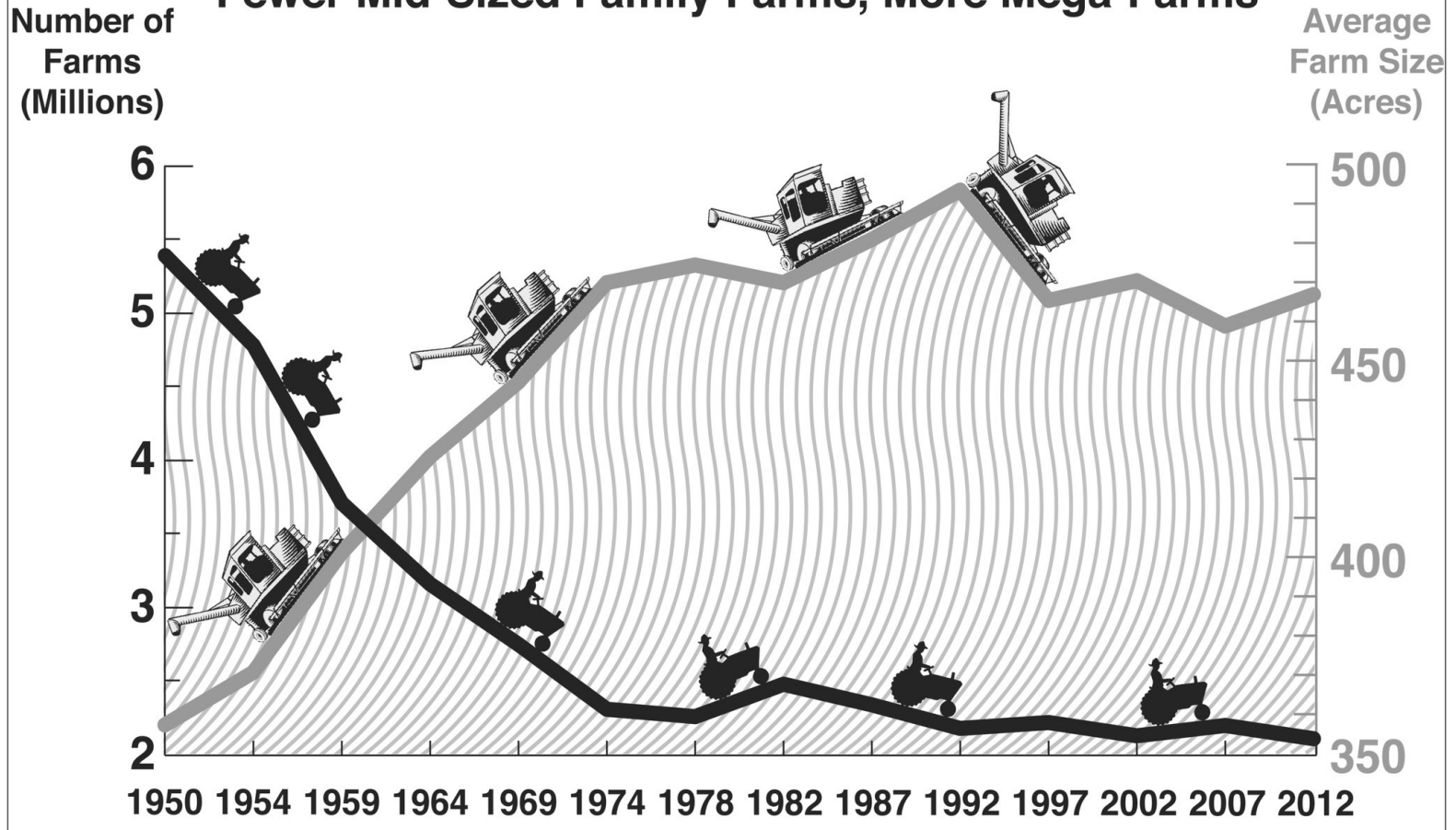
# WHAT'S NEW?

## Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

- \$867 billion over 10 years
- Legalized hemp production
- Permanent Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (FOTO) and Local Agriculture Marketing Program (LAMP)
- Small improvements to Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program
- Increased funding for SNAP employment and training
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program permanently funded (with new nutrition prescriptions)
- Increased funding for organic research and cost-sharing but reduced chemical restrictions
- Expanded definition of family members receiving commodity payments
- Dairy Margin Coverage Program

# “Get Big or Get Out”

## Fewer Mid-Sized Family Farms, More Mega-Farms

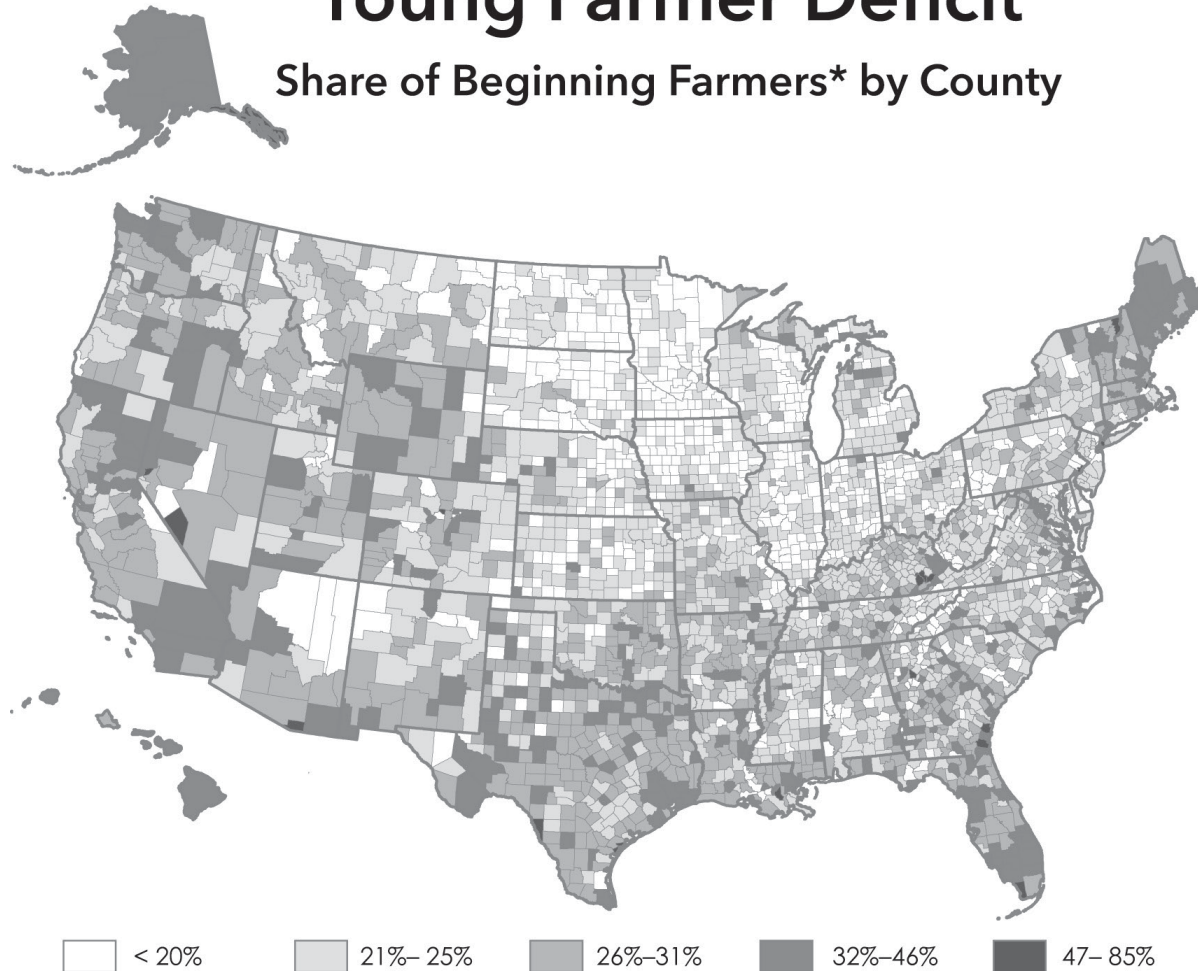


Graphic used with permission from Island Press.

Data source: 2012 – AgCensus. Cornell.edu. Accessed December 2, 2022. [https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census\\_year/2012-census/](https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/census_year/2012-census/)

# Young Farmer Deficit

Share of Beginning Farmers\* by County



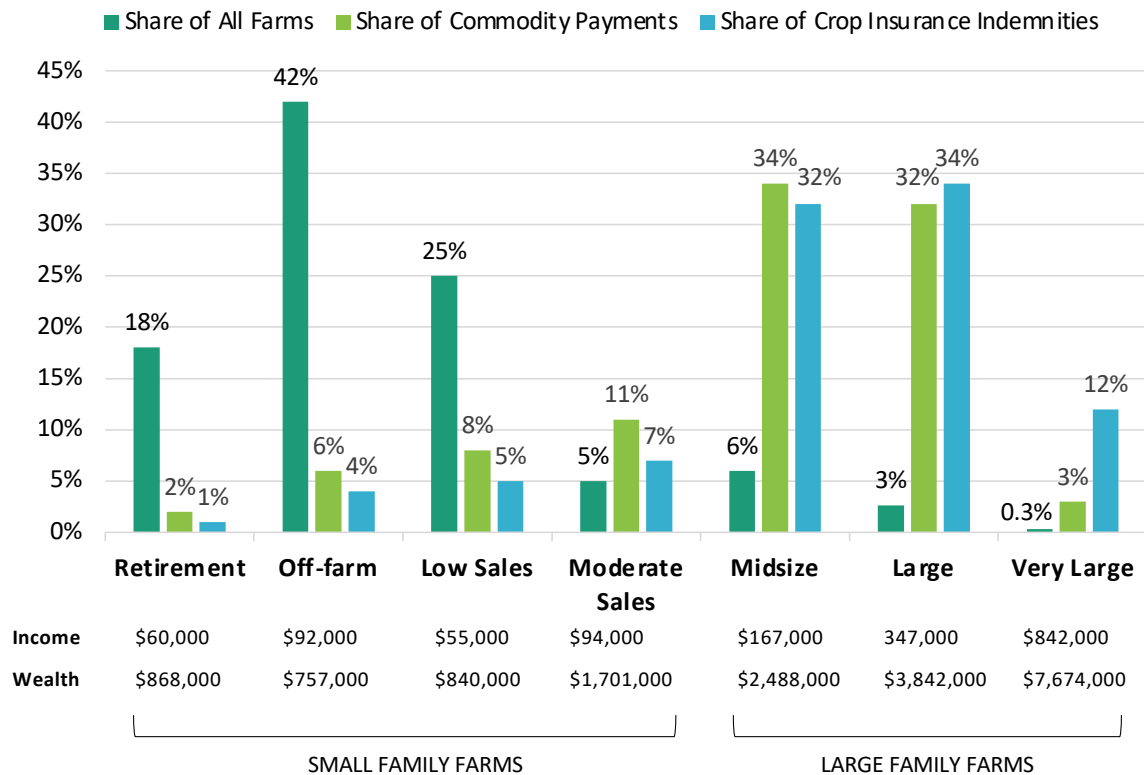
\*Principal operators on their current operation ten years or less

Beginning Farmers Highlights. USDA.gov. Accessed November 4, 2022. [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights/2014/Beginning\\_Farmers/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights/2014/Beginning_Farmers/index.php)

# Most Subsidies Go to Wealthiest Farms

## Most Subsidies Go to Farms with Greatest Income and Wealth

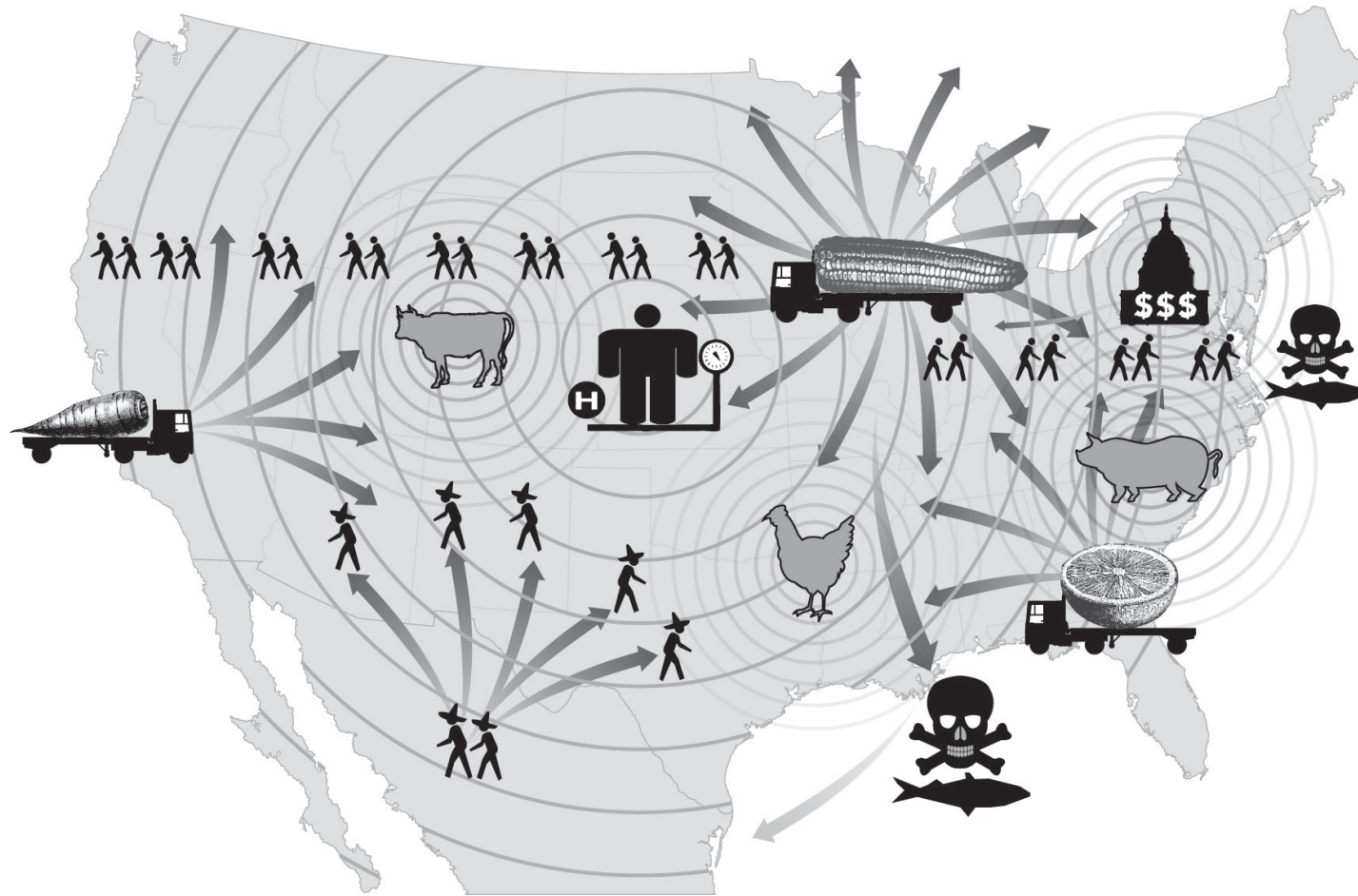
The largest family farms in the U.S. with the greatest farm household wealth, represent just under 3% of all farms yet receive more than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all commodity subsidies and almost that of the insurance indemnities.



Adapted from Bakst, D. What You Should Know About Who Receives Farm Subsidies. The Heritage Foundation. <https://www.heritage.org/agriculture/report/what-you-should-know-about-who-receives-farm-subsidies>

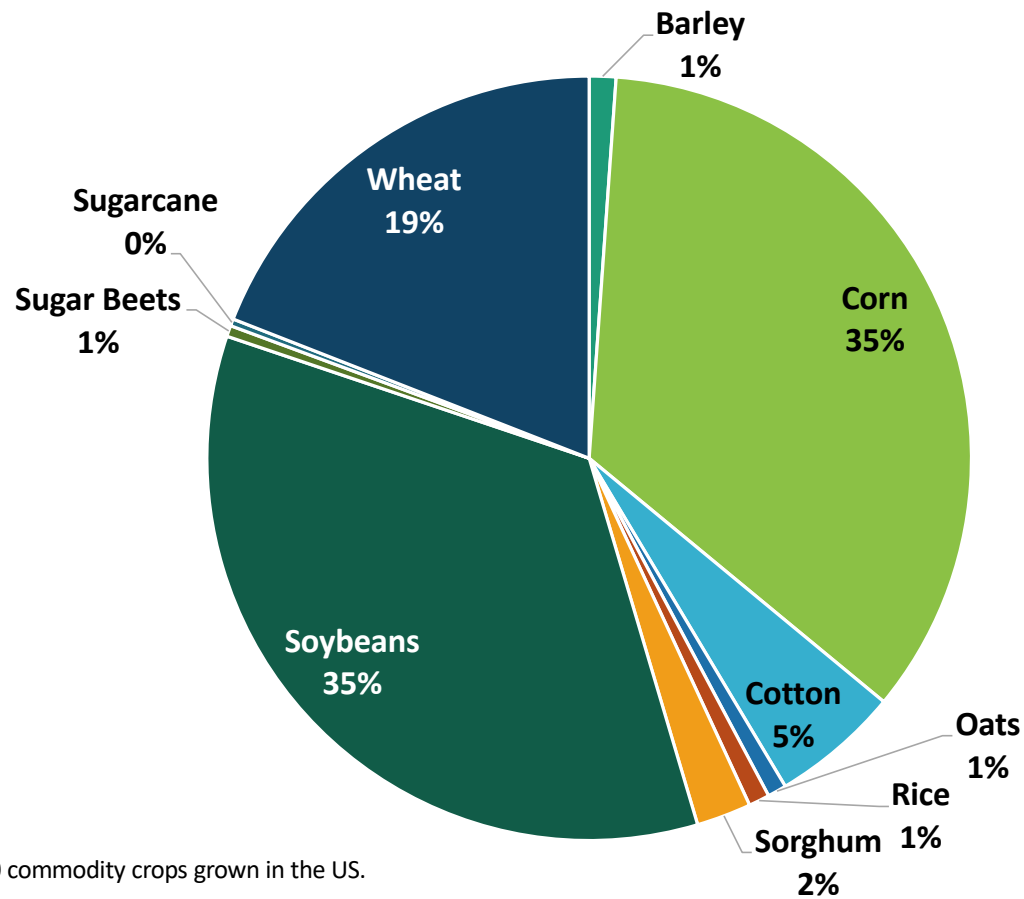


# Cornification of America



"World of Corn." National Corn Growers Association. <https://www.ncga.com/world-of-corn>. Graphic used with permission from Island Press.

# US Planted Acreage Dominated by Corn and Soy



Note: This chart presents the top 10 commodity crops grown in the US.

# Only 10% of US Corn Production Is Used for Food

## CORN USAGE BY SEGMENT 2021

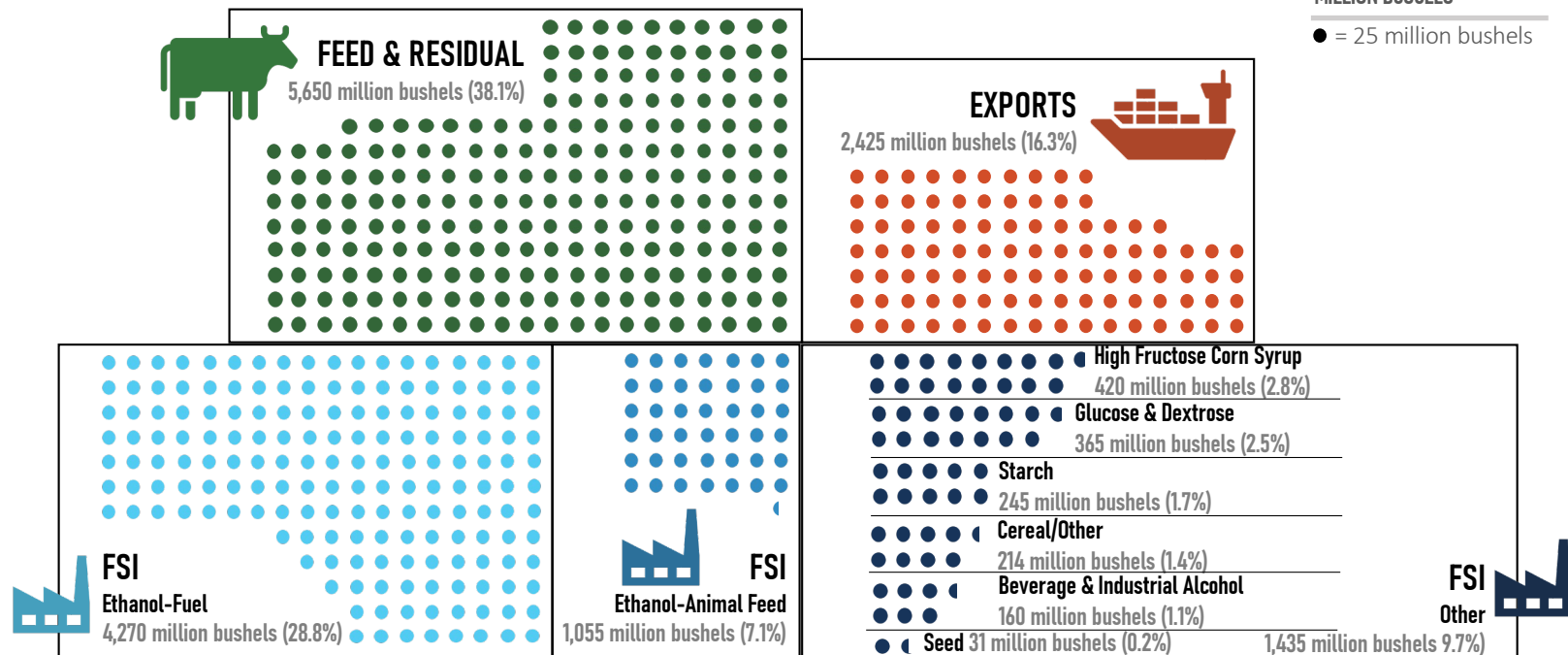
(million bushels)

TOTAL DISAPPEARANCE

14,835

MILLION BUSCELS

● = 25 million bushels



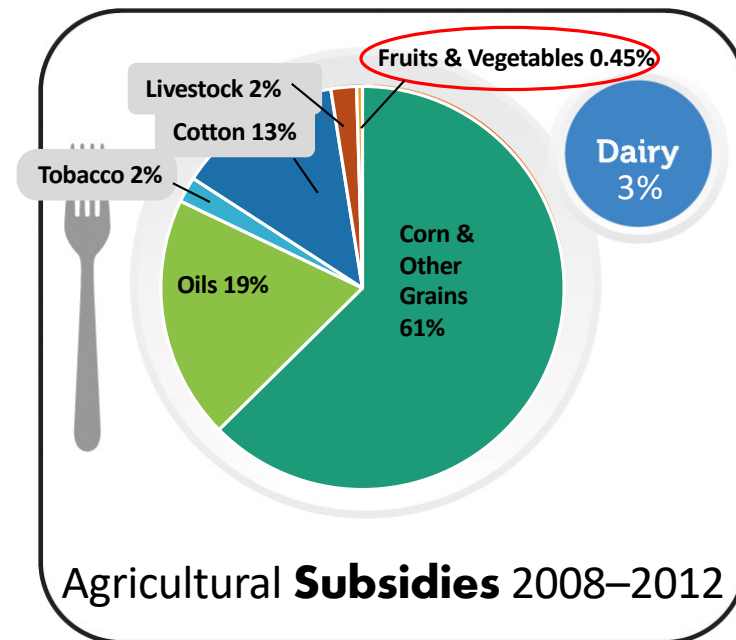
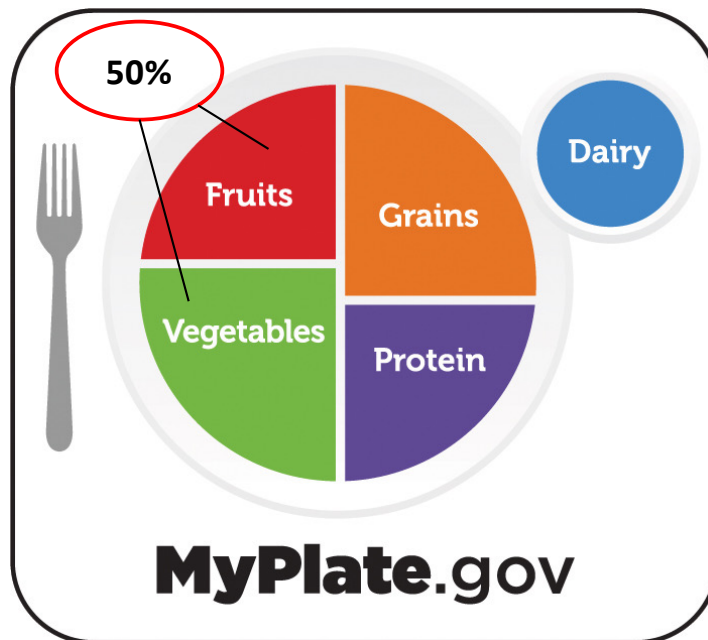
Adapted from Corn Usage by Segment, 2021. USDA, ERS Food Grains Yearbook, Jan 18, 2022; ProExporter Network, Jan. 17, 2022; Projected Crop Year Ending Aug. 31, 2022.

# The Disconnect

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*The Farm Bill and Healthy Food*

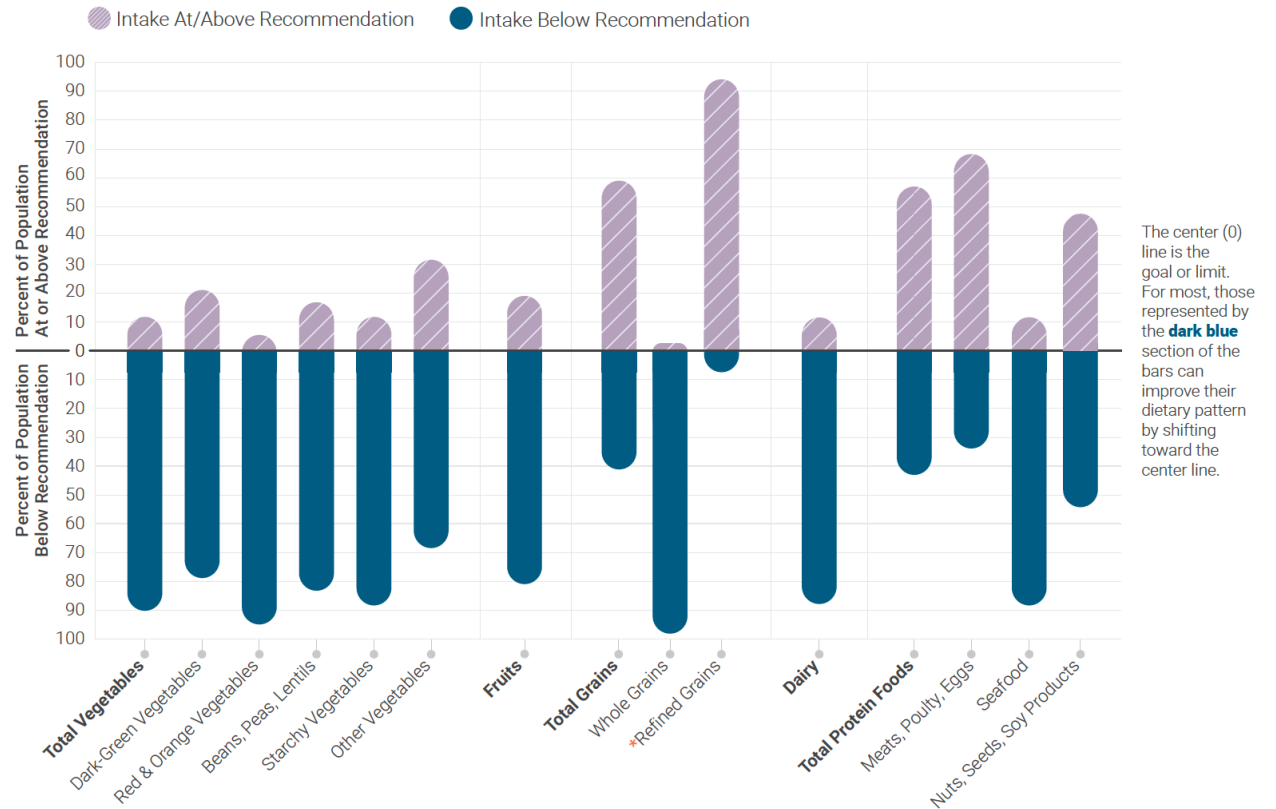
# US Dietary Guidelines Don't Align with Subsidies



# US Diets Don't Align with Dietary Guidelines

Figure 1-6

## Dietary Intakes Compared to Recommendations: Percent of the U.S. Population Ages 1 and Older Who Are Below and At or Above Each Dietary Goal



U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025. 9th Edition. December 2020. [www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov)

\*NOTE: Recommended daily intake of whole grains is to be at least half of total grain consumption, and the limit for refined grains is to be no more than half of total grain consumption.  
**Data Source:** Analysis of What We Eat in America, NHANES 2013-2016, ages 1 and older, 2 days dietary intake data, weighted. *Recommended Intake Ranges:* Healthy U.S.-Style Dietary Patterns (see [Appendix 3](#)).

## **Food Waste Has Increased Dramatically, Despite Hunger**

**Daniel Imhoff and Christina Badaracco | March 11, 2021 | The Hill**

It seems like a paradox: 50 million Americans are hungry, yet 40 percent of food produced in the U.S. goes to waste. In fact, this paradox illuminates chronic problems in our nation's industrial food system.

Food waste increased dramatically in 2020, as consumers changed their behavior by stockpiling shelf-stable goods, ordering more food online, and eating more at home. That meant that farmers and food-service suppliers lost their biggest customers in restaurants and institutions. At the same time, meat processing facilities became bottlenecks as COVID-19 outbreaks slowed or shut down production.

# Areas of Debate

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# Recent Issues Likely to Affect 2023 Farm Bill Development

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- **SNAP:** increase in food insecurity/shortages during the pandemic and increase in benefits through Thrifty Food Plan revisions
- **Food prices and shortages:** drought, war in Ukraine, export restrictions, high energy costs, and other factors have increased commodity prices and led to food shortages
- **Climate change:** Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and other bills have provided billions of dollars to fund programs to address climate change; continued impacts of droughts and floods on food supply; various bills promoting resiliency and mitigation (e.g., Farm System Reform Act)
- **Labor:** large shortages throughout food supply chain; poor conditions in meatpacking plants leading to thousands of cases early in pandemic
- **Consumer spending/trends:** decline in food service during pandemic disrupted supply chains and caused unpredictability; increased demand for meat and dairy alternatives and reliance on technology; more direct-to-consumer outlets for small farmers
- **American Rescue Plan:** while 2020 stimulus bills allocated most funding toward big agribusinesses, most of ARP's \$6 billion intended to go toward disadvantaged farmers (also for food distribution, etc.)

# Necessary Changes to the Farm Bill



REAL INCOME LIMITS FOR  
SUBSIDY RECIPIENTS



REAL CONSERVATION  
COMPLIANCE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR  
SUBSIDY RECIPIENTS



INCREASED WHOLE FARM  
REVENUE INSURANCE  
AND SUPPORT FOR  
DIVERSIFIED FARMS



LONG-TERM VISION FOR  
IMPROVEMENTS IN  
AGRICULTURAL  
PRODUCTION



ALIGNMENT BETWEEN  
DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR  
AMERICANS AND CROP  
SUBSIDIES



PRIORITIZATION OF  
GOOD NUTRITION IN  
SNAP PROGRAM



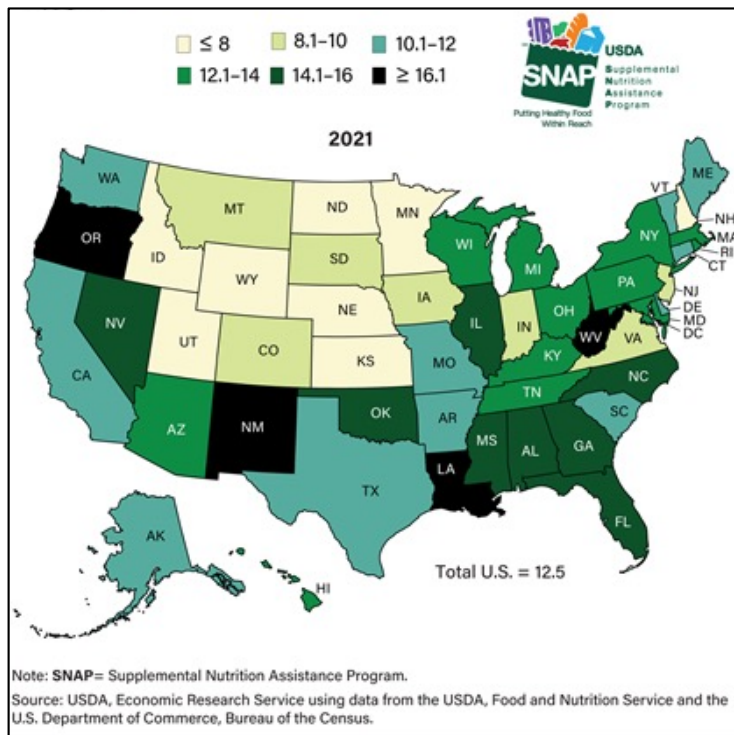
AND MORE...

Aid F. What's in the 2018 farm bill? The good, the bad and the offal... Farm Aid. Published December 20, 2018. <https://www.farmaid.org/issues/farm-policy/whats-in-the-2018-farm-bill-the-good-the-bad-and-the-offal/>

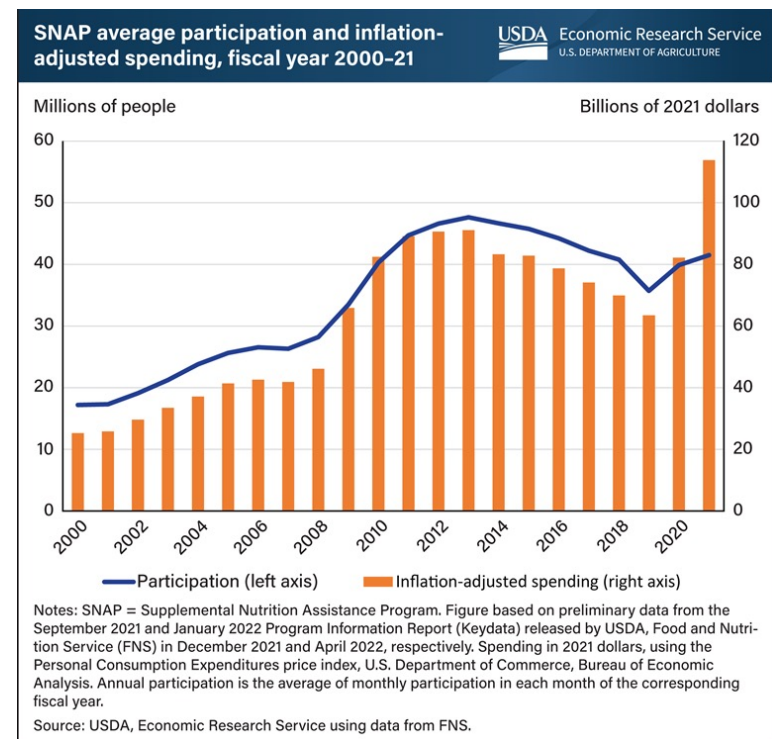
Ehrenberg R. Finding the fat: The US Farm Bill and health. Knowable mag. Published online 2018. doi:10.1146/knowable-090618-023201. <https://knowablemagazine.org/article/society/2018/finding-fat-us-farm-bill-and-health>

# SNAP Participation and Spending

Percent of residents receiving SNAP benefits, FY 2021



SNAP average participation and inflation-adjusted spending, FYs 2000-2021



SNAP participation rates by state, all eligible people. Usda.gov. Accessed December 2, 2022. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usamap>

Jones JW. SNAP spending reached record high of \$113.8 billion in fiscal year 2021. Usda.gov. Accessed December 2, 2022. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/gallery/chart-detail/?chartId=104330>

# Ideas for Prioritizing Nutrition Through SNAP

- Align SNAP and Medicaid
- Focus SNAP-Ed on basic cooking skills
- Connect recipients to food hubs/food-sharing networks
- Improve/expand new nutrition prescription program
- Improve collection and sharing of purchase data and analyses
- Impose restrictions? Incentives and/or disincentives?
- Separate SNAP from the Farm Bill?
- Improve nutrition outside of SNAP to serve these individuals *before and after* they participate



# How RDNs Can Make an Impact

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*Ideas and Recommendations*

## The Health Care Blog

### Six Health-Focused Fixes for SNAP

**Christina Badaracco | April 11, 2019**

The \$867 billion Farm Bill squeaked through our polarized Congress at the end of last year, though it was nearly derailed by arguments over work requirements for SNAP recipients. That debate was tabled after the USDA crafted a compromise, but it is sure to continue at the state level and in the next round of debates. While Republicans tend to favor work requirements and Democrats tend to oppose them, here's something both sides can agree on: SNAP should help Americans eat healthy food.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—formerly known as food stamps—provides financial resources to buy food and nutrition education to some 40 million low-income Americans. Costing taxpayers almost \$80 billion per year, the program serves...

# Positive Impacts We Can Make As Nutrition Experts

<b>Publish</b>	Publish research to build evidence base for valuable programs
<b>Learn</b>	Stay up to date on information about the bill and current subsidies by reading CRS reports, NSAC updates, EWG subsidy databases, and Farm Action reports
<b>Testify</b>	Testify or present in hearings on the Hill to educate Congressmen and staffers
<b>Advocate</b>	Advocate for policies at local, state, and national levels that support small, sustainable farmers
<b>Spend</b>	Spend your dollars at markets and farms that keep money local and keep small family farms in business
<b>Support</b>	Support young people entering farming
<b>Partner</b>	Partner with local food hubs, producers, etc., to prioritize institutional procurement that aligns with your values

# Recommendations for Your Clients

- Pass along information from the Environmental Working Group (EWG), National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC), Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), and others, to inform interested audiences
- Offer recommendations about local farms, community supported agriculture (CSA) programs, farmers markets, etc., to colleagues and the public
- Educate about environmental and nutritional benefits of fresh, local, wholesome foods
- Educate about how to cook with wholesome foods, including frozen and canned, if those are the only accessible options
- Connect with Farm Bill resources/programs to support/inform your own work



## Recommended Reading

- [Farm Bill Law Enterprise](#) - reports and report cards
- [Bipartisan Policy Center](#) - reports on improving SNAP
- [Congressional Research Service](#) - reports
- [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#) - overview, webinars, etc.
- [Environmental Working Group](#) - subsidy database
- [Farm Action](#) - policy recommendations to improve health

# Questions?



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# The Health Care Staffing Crisis: Creative Solutions for Today's Challenges

EARN 1  
CEU

**Presented by Elaine Farley-Zoucha, RD, LMNT, and Lyndel Schuster, MS, RD,  
December 8, 2022, 2-3pm ET**

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3. Click “Take Course” on the webinar description page.
4. Select “Start/Resume” to complete the course and submit the evaluation.
5. Download and print your certificate.

RDNs/DTRs: When recording activities in your CDR Activity Log, please select activity type 102, “activities offered by Jointly Accredited (JA) Providers.” Sphere and Competency selection are the learner’s discretion.