



FARM BILL

Current Farm Bill authorities expire on Sept. 30. The animal food industry needs a strong and resilient agricultural industry to successfully feed livestock and companion animals at home and enhance access to U.S. animal nutrition products abroad. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's voluntary conservation programs are critical for providing financial incentives and technical assistance to producers to implement sound environmental stewardship practices that ensure the effective use of natural resources and will be instrumental in helping the U.S. meet its climate goals.

AFIA POSITION

The U.S. animal food industry is doing its part to help the country achieve its food security and climate goals by providing a continuous, safe and nutritious food supply for poultry, livestock, fish and pets in a manner that optimizes environmental quality and the stewardship of natural resources. **The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) is urging Congress to support key Farm Bill programs that can ensure the industry remains competitive globally in the future.**

KEY POINTS

The AFIA supports the following programs:

- **Increased funding for two USDA programs – Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) to ensure U.S. animal food exports can continue growing in key markets.** The AFIA supports increasing funding to \$400 million for MAP and \$69 million annually for FMD, both of which have not seen increases since 2006 due to sequestration, inflation and program administration. **Cosponsor S. 176 or H.R. 648 – the Expanding Agricultural Exports Act of 2023.**
- **Enhanced utilization of two conservation programs – the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for feed management.** Currently underutilized for feed management, these programs can provide livestock and poultry producers access to ration-based strategies for reducing the environmental footprint of their operations, helping address consumers' demands and make progress on U.S. climate goals. Awareness, technical assistance and expertise within the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is needed to make these programs successful.
- **Expanded opportunities for access to technical service providers (TSPs) with expertise in animal nutrition.** Increasing the number of TSPs with the expertise to implement the feed management standard for livestock and poultry producers will raise awareness and increase use of the standard to provide cost-sharing incentives to producers looking to implement environmentally beneficial feeding practices.
- **Funding for agriculture research to answer some of our most pressing questions.** Threats from plant and animal pests and diseases, rising costs, limited availability of inputs, extreme weather and other volatile conditions challenge U.S. agriculture. The AFIA supports \$8 billion in mandatory Farm Bill research title funding to spur scientific breakthroughs and secure U.S. agriculture's future.
- **Support language that directs the Environmental Protection Agency to consult with the USDA and Food and Drug Administration on its review of formaldehyde.** Without the ability to continue safely using formaldehyde in agriculture applications, the animal food industry will be limited in its ability to fight animal diseases and address food safety.

VIEW ISSUE



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