



FARM BILL

The U.S. animal food industry needs a strong and resilient agricultural industry to successfully feed livestock and companion animals, maintain exports and defend our country against animal diseases. Overall, the Farm Bill impacts virtually every aspect of the animal food industry including production, conservation practice adoption, regulatory compliance and access to international markets. It is a fundamental piece of legislation for ensuring the growth, sustainability and competitiveness of the U.S. agriculture industry.

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 sustainable manner. **The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) is urging Congress to pass a Farm Bill that supports key programs that can ensure the industry remains competitive globally in the future and facilitates agricultural research and the use of safe tools.**

KEY POINTS

The AFIA supports the following programs:

- **Increased funding for the USDA 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 been increased since 2006 due to sequestration, inflation and program administration.
- **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, such as African swine fever, and address food safety.
- **Enhanced utilization of two USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs – the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for feed management.** Currently, these programs are underutilized but have the potential to incentivize livestock and poultry producers use of established nutritional practices that are demonstrated to reduce the environmental footprint of their operations. Awareness, technical assistance and expertise within the NRCS is needed to make these programs successful.
- **Expanded opportunities for access to NRCS technical service providers (TSPs) with expertise in animal nutrition.** Increasing the number of TSPs with expertise in animal nutrition will raise producers' awareness of the feed management standard, potentially increasing its use to provide cost-sharing incentives to producers looking to implement environmentally beneficial feeding practices.
- **Funding for agricultural research to answer some of our most pressing questions.** Threats from plant and animal pests and diseases, rising input 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 as the global leader in efficient production.