Welcome to Food PAC
Please Sign In
And sit next to someone you don’t know 😊
Food Policy Action Coalition

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Welcome and Introductions

• Name
• Organization and/or Community
• Your interest around food and/or why you are here
Farm Bill: Introduction

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What is the Farm Bill?

- Basic legislation that authorizes many major U.S. agriculture and food policy programs
- Renewed every 5 years
- The most recent farm bill was passed in 2014. It expires in September 2018.
- The next farm bill “2018 farm bill” is now being worked on in Congress.
Categories of activities authorized by the farm bill

- Nutrition Programs (Title 3)
- Commodity Programs (Farm Subsidies) (Title 1)
- Crop Insurance (Farmer Safety Net) (Title 11)
- Conservation (environmental) payments (Title 2)
- Other (Trade, Credit, Rural Development, Research & Extension, Energy, Forestry, Horticulture, Miscellaneous)
Nutrition Title, Selected Programs

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Employment & Training
  - Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program (Formerly “SNAP-Ed”)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (Seniors)
- Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (School Children)
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (SNAP Participants)
Farm bill Spending by Title

77% for nutrition programs, principally SNAP.

Source: CRS, using the January 2012 CBO baseline.

Notes: Excludes $0.7 billion of expiring budget authority for programs that do not have baseline to continue (Wetlands Reserve, Grasslands Reserve, and Biomass Crop Assistance Program).
Historically, Passing the Farm Bill requires a Coalition

- Coalition building to improve chance of passage:
  - Farm Interests
    - Regional interests vary by crop (cotton in the South, dairy in the upper Midwest, etc.)
    - Crop Insurance Industry, Agribusiness, Ethanol, etc.
  - Urban interests (Nutrition Programs)
  - Environmental Interests (Conservation Programs)

- 2014 Farm Bill example
Where are we now in the process?

- Both House and Senate authorization committees have been holding hearings to get feedback on Farm Bill
  - House: Committee on Agriculture
  - Senate: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

- Current Budget Process

- Relevant 2014 Farm Bill programs that expire in 2018
Current Budget Process and Farm Bill

- Every year, Congress sets parameters for discretionary and mandatory spending
- Big push in House to make large cuts in mandatory spending [Farm Bill is mostly mandatory spending]
- House introduced budget resolution for FY2018 in July
  - Includes instructions for House Ag Committee to cut $10 Billion over 10 years to Farm Bill Food and Ag programs
- What is the definition of a “cut” to Farm Bill?
  - Make changes to the eligibility rules or benefit amounts of mandatory programs such that CBO estimates of 10-year spending in the 2018 Farm Bill are $10 Billion less than CBO estimates of 10-year spending of the 2014 Farm Bill if everything was kept the same.
What Would a Cut Mean to the Farm Bill

- House bill suggests cut to come from SNAP
- October 6\textsuperscript{th} is deadline for House Ag Committee to report legislation on how the $10 Billion cut will be achieved specifically
- Potential methods to achieve cut:
  - Turn SNAP into a state block grant program
  - Stronger work requirements for SNAP
Likelihood that this will occur

- House scheduled to vote this Thursday
- Senate introduced budget resolution last Friday
  - More flexibility with funding for Farm Bill by increasing deficit
  - Priority to pass tax reform rather than cut spending
- Both House and Senate need to agree for budget to become law
- GOP want to use reconciliation process to push through tax reform with only a simple majority in Senate.
- But large spending cuts may impede the process.
- Ag committees want to pass Farm Bill. It requires 60 votes in Senate (i.e. bipartisan support). If constrained by budget and forced to make drastic changes to SNAP and other programs then lose needed votes.
Programs that Expire at the End of the 2014 Farm Bill

- 37 Programs that receive mandatory funding in 2014 Farm Bill but are not permanent will expire in September 2018 if no changes are made to 2014 Farm Bill.
- In 2013, when the 2008 Farm Bill Expired, these types of programs were “stranded” until the 2014 Farm Bill was passed.

Of interest:
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
- Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers
- Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives Program
- Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program
2018 FARM BILL

- How much is it?
- What might get cut?
- What do those cuts mean?
- What should we do?
Projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Act, 2014-2018

- Nutrition: 80%
- Commodities: 5%
- Crop insurance: 8%
- Conservation: 6%
- Other: 1%

Total outlays = $489 billion

· Block grants (even by another name)
· Minimum Benefit
· Cost shift to the state
· Cost shift to retailers
· Time limits (not “work requirements”)
WHAT TO DO

- 202 – 224-3121 Capitol Operator
- HR 1276 “Closing the Meal Gap of 2017”
- Members of the House of Representatives
  - Rep. Cummings
  - Rep. Sarbanes
  - Ruppersberger
- Members of the Senate
  - Sen. Cardin
  - Sen. Van Hollen
Farm Bill 101:
Marker Bills

Baltimore Food PAC Meeting
October 4, 2017

Carolyn Hricko, MPH
Research Program Manager
Food System Policy Program
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

- Education
- Research
- Advocacy/Technical Assistance
What is a Marker Bill?

- Informal, generic name for legislation that bundles related policy requests
- Introduced into the House or Senate by champions of a particular issue
What is the purpose? (Part 1)

- Not intended to be adopted into law as stand-alone legislation
- Goal is for it (or pieces of it) to be included in a larger omnibus bill
What is the purpose? (Part 2)

- Demonstrate support for a particular issue
- Establish agenda within the context of larger omnibus bill
- Seek buy-in from other legislators
- Build grassroots support
- Streamline the process
- Raise a stronger, unified voice
- Negotiating tool
What does success look like?

- It depends!
- Gaining widespread support for key issues
- Introducing new policy ideas into the process
- Committee chair’s mark includes parts or all of the marker bill
- Parts of or all of marker bill included in the authorization
Examples of Past Success

- Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act (Marker Bill) leading to the expansion of the existing Farmers Market Promotion Program into the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program

- Also led to increased funding for other programs (local food, organic, healthy food access and rural development programs)

  - Introduced: November 2011, April 2013, Passed: February 2014
Examples of Past Success

- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act (Marker Bill) leading to the Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher programs in the 2014 Farm Bill

Credit: Malcolm Carlaw, Flickr
Current Examples

- The Local Food and Regional Market Supply Act (The Local FARMS Act) (Reps Pingree, Maloney, Fortenberry, and Senator Brown)
- Urban Food Marker Bill (Senator Stabenow)
- Sustainable Livestock Marker Bill
- Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment
Current Examples

The Local FARMS Act

MARKETS: Help farmers reach new markets through outreach, cost-share, and technical assistance programs

ACCESS: Increase access to fresh, healthy, local food among low-income groups and communities in need

INFRASTRUCTURE: Develop new and strengthen existing infrastructure that connects producers to consumers

Credit: Malcolm Carlaw, Flickr
Current Examples

Urban Agriculture Marker Bill

- Creates new economic opportunities: loans, technical assistance, research
- Increases access to healthy foods: community gardens and healthy food pilot program
- Supports healthier environments: soil remediation and urban composting

Credit: Malcolm Carlaw, Flickr
Opportunities for Engagement

- Develop and introduce marker bills
- Partner with other organizations on marker bills
- Build grassroots support through your network
- Encourage Representatives and Senators to support key marker bills through letters, meetings, and phone calls
Additional Resources

- Center for a Livable Future Food Policy Network, webinars and other resources:
  http://www.foodpolicynetworks.org/

- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Farm Bill 2018: A Primer:

- Pittsburgh Food Policy Council 2018 Farm Bill Guide:
  http://www.pittsburghfoodpolicy.org/home/pfpc-2018-farm-bill-guide-

- Information on the 2014 Farm Bill and its programs:
  thefarmbill.com

- Congressional Research Service “Previewing a 2018 Farm Bill”:
  http://www.nasda.org/File.aspx?id=49373
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www.jhsph.edu/clf
Q&A
Discussion
Feedback
Thank You

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