



**2026 FARM BILL:  
Key Takeaways for Indian  
Country**



**Mai Nguyen, PhD**  
Associate Director of Policy,  
Research, and Tribal Governance



**Joseph Damaso, MA**  
Policy Liaison





# AGENDA

- What is the Farm Bill?
- How did we get to 2026 without a Farm Bill?
- What's in the 2026 House Farm Bill?
- What's next?



# AGENDA

- **What is the Farm Bill?**
- **How did we get to 2026 without a Farm Bill?**
- What's in the 2026 House Farm Bill?
- What's next?



# WHAT IS THE FARM BILL?

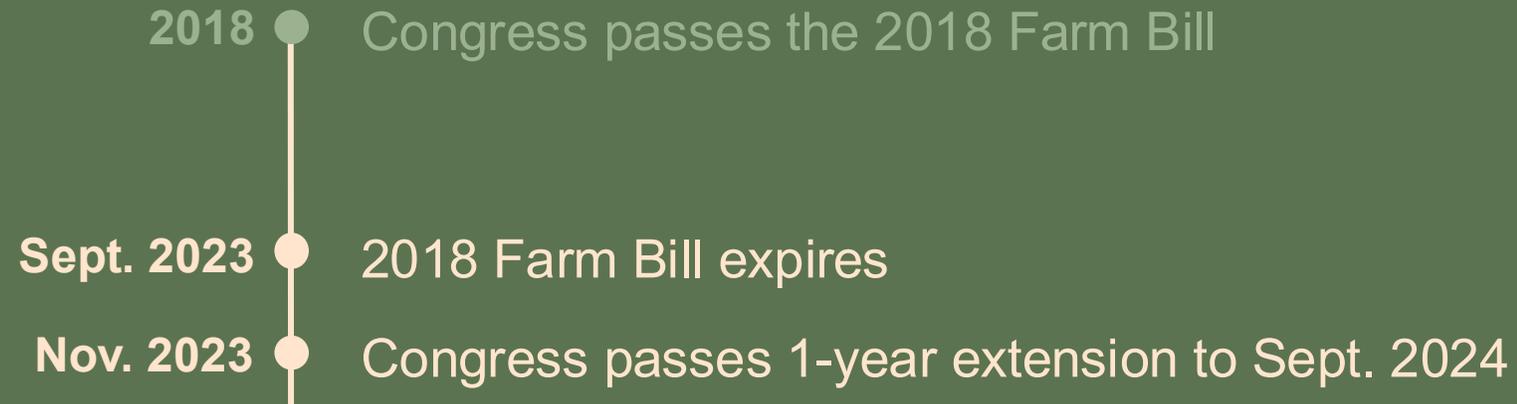
The Farm Bill is a multi-year law that reauthorizes, modifies, and creates new food and agriculture programs at the USDA.

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

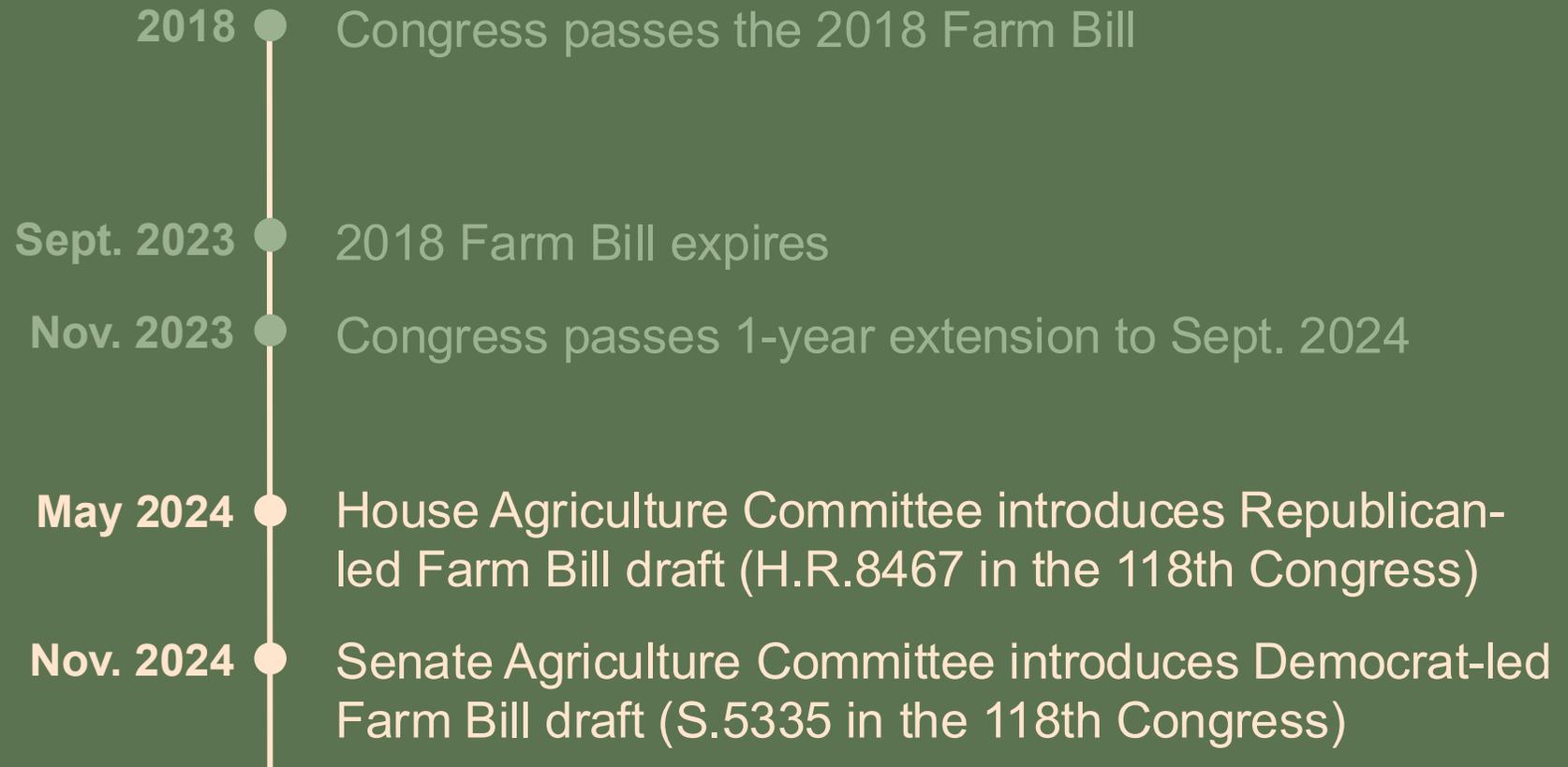
# A new Farm Bill is very overdue

2018 ● Congress passes the 2018 Farm Bill

# A new Farm Bill is very overdue



# A new Farm Bill is very overdue



# 2024 Farm Bill proposals include numerous Tribal priorities, but did not advance

# 46

Tribal-specific provisions in the 2024 House Farm Bill

# 77+

Tribal-specific provisions in the 2024 Senate Farm Bill

## 2024 Farm Bill proposals did not advance

- Significant partisan disagreements on SNAP funding and climate-related programs
- Competition with other legislative priorities
- 2024 election results and change in White House and Senate control

# A new Farm Bill is very overdue

- 
- A vertical timeline with a white line and circular markers on a dark green background. The events are listed from top to bottom:
- 2018** ● Congress passes the 2018 Farm Bill
  - Sept. 2023** ● 2018 Farm Bill expires
  - Nov. 2023** ● Congress passes 1-year extension to Sept. 2024
  - May 2024** ● House Agriculture Committee introduces Republican-led Farm Bill draft
  - Nov. 2024** ● Senate Agriculture Committee introduces Democrat-led Farm Bill draft
  - Dec. 2024** ● Congress passes a second 1-year extension to Sept. 2025  
118th Congress ends



# A new Farm Bill is very overdue

Jan. 2025



119th Congress begins – Republican control of White House, Senate, and House

# A new Farm Bill is very overdue

- Jan. 2025** ● 119th Congress begins – Republican control of White House, Senate, and House
- July 2025** ● Congress passes the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1), which includes numerous provisions typically passed in a Farm Bill

# One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1) includes Farm Bill provisions

## **Nutrition**

- Limits future updates to the Thrifty Food Plan, which underlies SNAP benefits
- Exempts members of Tribes from SNAP work requirements
- Establishes new cost sharing requirements for States
- Eliminates SNAP-Ed

## **Conservation**

- Reauthorizes CSP, EQIP, RCPP, ACEP

## **Risk Management**

- Updates and extends risk management tools, including ARC and PLC
- Increased crop insurance premium support

## **Disaster assistance**

- Updates and extends disaster assistance programs, including LIP, LFP, ELAP, TA

## One Big Beautiful Bill Act - H.R.1

### IFAI Indian Country Impact Analysis

**Signed into Law on July 4, 2025** – [Bill Link](#)

**Summary:** The One Big Beautiful Bill Act will have impacts on federal food and nutrition policies for Tribal Nations, producers, and citizens. This law consolidates a wide range of provisions that reshape how food access, agricultural support and nutrition education are funded and administered across Indian Country.

One of the bill's most significant changes comes in nutrition assistance and nutrition education, both of which are deeply important to Tribal communities which continue to experience disproportionately high levels of food insecurity and barriers to accessing healthy foods. The final bill changes the structure and funding of the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), including adjustments to eligibility calculations, limitations on USDA's ability to adjust benefits to keep pace with inflation, and changes to work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD's). The bill does provide some exceptions for Native Americans and Alaska Natives who meet the ABAWD definition. The final bill also phases out [SNAP-Ed](#), a nutrition education program that has supported culturally relevant nutrition education and wellness initiatives in some Tribal communities.

The bill impacts Tribal producers through adjustments made to commodity programs, crop insurance, and disaster relief mechanisms. These have the potential to impact Tribal food sovereignty and economic development initiatives in Indian Country. While some federal administrative streamlining may benefit



## What does the One Big Beautiful Bill Act mean for the Farm Bill?

- Breaks the traditional "Farm Bill coalition"
- Dems oppose changes to nutrition program
- Ultimately makes it much more difficult to pass a "Skinny Farm Bill" covering remaining USDA programs

# A new Farm Bill is very overdue

- Jan. 2025** ● 119th Congress begins – Republican control of White House, Senate, and House
- July 2025** ● Congress passes the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1), which includes numerous provisions typically passed in a Farm Bill
- Sept. 2025** ● Remaining Farm Bill programs expire
- Dec. 2025** ● Congress passes a third 1-year extension of the Farm Bill, covering programs not included in OBBA

# A new Farm Bill is very overdue

- Jan. 2025** ● 119th Congress begins – Republican control of White House, Senate, and House
- July 2025** ● Congress passes the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1), which includes numerous provisions typically passed in a Farm Bill
- Sept. 2025** ● Remaining Farm Bill programs expire
- Dec. 2025** ● Congress passes a third 1-year extension of the Farm Bill, covering programs not included in OBBA
- Feb. 2026** ● House Agriculture Committee introduces the 2026 H.R.7567 - Farm, Food, and National Security Act



# AGENDA

- What is the Farm Bill?
- How did we get to 2026 without a Farm Bill?
- **What's in the 2026 House Farm Bill?**
- What's next?

March 2, 2026

## Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 ([H.R.7567](#))

The House Farm Bill, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 ([H.R.7567](#)), was introduced on Feb. 13, 2026. The base text includes almost 40 provisions that specifically reference Tribes or related keywords. Other provisions may impact Tribal communities and Native producers. Below, IFAI is providing a summary of provisions that may impact Indian Country organized by Farm Bill Title. This summary is not comprehensive, and other provisions may have impacts on Tribal communities.

### Title I – Commodities

Section	Program	Description and analysis
1003	Specialty crops disaster assistance	Establishes a new disaster assistance framework for specialty crops. Previously, disaster assistance for most specialty crops was delivered on an ad-hoc basis or through a patchwork of programs, including the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP). Native producers have especially relied on NAP and ELAP in the absence of other assistance. The new framework may provide more predictability and assistance for specialty crop growers, which includes <a href="#">9% of Native producers</a> .
1008	Loan processing during a government shutdown	<p>Requires the Secretary to continue processing Market Access Loans (MAL) and Sugar Processing Loans during a government shutdown. These loans are processed by county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices, which have historically been closed during government shutdowns. However, three weeks into the extended 2025 government shutdown, USDA <a href="#">partially reopened FSA offices</a> and allowed them to process MAL, disaster aid, indemnity programs, dairy margin coverage, and ARC/PLC, providing relief to producers.</p> <p>This section would ensure that producers, including Native producers, would continue receiving payments during a future government shutdown. However, it would not address a key challenge for Native producers during the 2025 shutdown: getting <a href="#">two-party checks</a> endorsed. When ranchers with an FSA operating loan sell their livestock, they are frequently issued a two-party check that requires endorsement by FSA to be deposited. When FSA offices were closed, ranchers were unable to get their checks endorsed, delaying payments for work they had already completed.</p>

## TITLE II: CONSERVATION



- Establishes a new Soil Health Program to support Tribal and States
- Allows Tribes to become certifiers for Technical Service Providers (TSPs)
- Sets new deadlines for approving Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) agreements and for issuing payments
- Sets a new minimum cost share of 50% for Alternative Funding Agreements
- Authorizes advanced payments for fencing under the Emergency Conservation Program

## TITLE IV: NUTRITION



- Allows States to contract out SNAP certification
- Establishes pilot for home delivery of CSFP boxes
- Establishes a pilot 638 program for CSFP
- Designates an existing office to oversee self-determination contracts and provide \$1.2 million in authorization of approps

LOCAL FARMERS  
FEEDING OUR  
COMMUNITIES



- Establishes the Local Farmers Feeding Our Communities program
  - Non-competitive funding for States and Tribes to purchase locally produced foods for distribution through hunger programs
  - 10% of funds set aside for Tribes
  - 25% of food must be purchased from small, mid-sized, veteran or beginner farmers
  - Authorizes \$200 million in appropriations
- Similar to Local Food Purchasing Agreement (LFPA) except:
  - No requirement to purchase from underserved producers
  - Significantly less funding and relies on appropriations

NO CONTINUATION  
OF 638 PILOT FOR  
FDPIR



- The 2018 Farm Bill established a 638 demonstration project for Tribes to procure food directly for FDPIR
  - 16 Tribes have successfully participated
- The 2024 House Farm Bill made this demonstration project permanent, but the 2026 bill does not, likely due to concerns with cost
  - CBO estimates 638 for FDPIR would increase costs by 70%

## TITLE V: CREDIT



- Implements or partially implements several recommendations from USDA's Tribal Advisory Committee:
  - Reduces experience requirement for Farm Ownership Loans from 3 years to 2 years
  - Allows FSA to refinance Farm Ownership Loan Guarantees for distressed borrowers
  - Increases microloan limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000

## TITLE VI: RURAL DEVELOPMENT



- Makes Tribes eligible for the Rural Energy Savings Program, Solid Waste Management Program
- Establishes competitive grant program for establishing meat processing facilities in rural areas
- Establishes zero and low-interest loans for distressed water systems
- Increases the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program microloan from \$50,000 to \$75,000

## TITLE VII: EDUCATION



- Reauthorizes but does not change funding for -
  - TCU Essential Community Facilities
  - Education grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions
  - New Beginnings for Tribal Students
- Eliminates requirement for TCUs to partner with ARS or other land-grant institutions for research grants
- Eliminates per-state limit of \$500,000 for New Beginnings for Tribal Students
- Allows TCU research grants to be used for research equipment

## TITLE X: HORTICULTURE



- Makes changes to Tribal and State regulation of hemp
- Expands the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) to allow funds to be used for regional food chain coordination and purchase of special purpose equipment
- Directs USDA to report on barriers to procuring traditional, culturally relevant, or local and regional commodities

## TITLE XI: CROP INSURANCE



- Expands the definition of veteran farmer or rancher to include veterans with up to 10 years of farm experience, up 5 years
- Increases crop insurance subsidies for veteran farmers or ranchers

## TITLE XII: MISCELLANEOUS



- Directs the Office of Tribal Relations to oversee self-determination contracts
- Directs USDA to establish the Commission on Farm Transitions – Needs for 2050 within 60 days to study and make recommendations on access to land, credit, and risk management and on resolving heirs property issues
- Directs USDA to report on federal program assisting beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers access land



# AGENDA

- What is the Farm Bill?
- How did we get to 2026 without a Farm Bill?
- What's in the 2026 House Farm Bill?
- **What's next?**



## Congress is unlikely to pass a Farm Bill in 2026

- House Republicans likely do not have the votes to pass their Farm Bill
- Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to release their proposal in the coming months, but they similarly do not have the votes
- Many competing legislative priorities
- Upcoming midterm elections
  - Shorter schedule
  - Many key Ag Committee members retiring or running for other office

# Farm Bill outlook for 2026

- Feb. - Mar. 2026** ● House Agriculture Committee introduces and advances the 2026 Farm Bill, H.R.7567 - Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026
- ??? 2026** ● *Senate Agriculture Committee expected to introduce Farm Bill proposal in coming months*
- Sept. 2026** ● *Third Farm Bill extension expires*
- ??? 2026** ● *??? Fourth Farm Bill extension?*
- ??? 2027** ● *??? 2027 Farm Bill proposals?*

QUESTIONS?

**Mai Nguyen, PhD**

Associate Director of Policy,  
Research, and Tribal Governance

[mnguyen5@uark.edu](mailto:mnguyen5@uark.edu)

