

2026 SENATE FARM BILL: Key Takeaways for Indian Country

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Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative
July 27, 2026



AGENDA

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



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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.

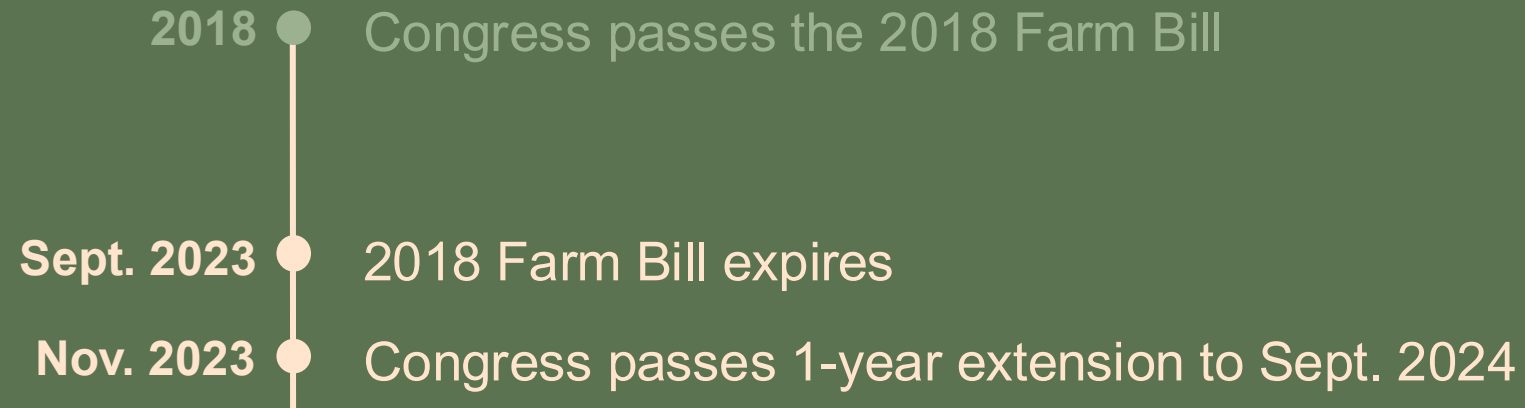
- Title I - Commodities
- Title II – Conservation
- Title III – Trade
- Title IV – Nutrition
- Title V – Credit
- Title VI – Rural Development
- Title VII – Research
- Title VIII – Forestry
- Title IX – Energy
- Title X – Horticulture
- Title XI – Crop insurance
- Title XII - Miscellaneous



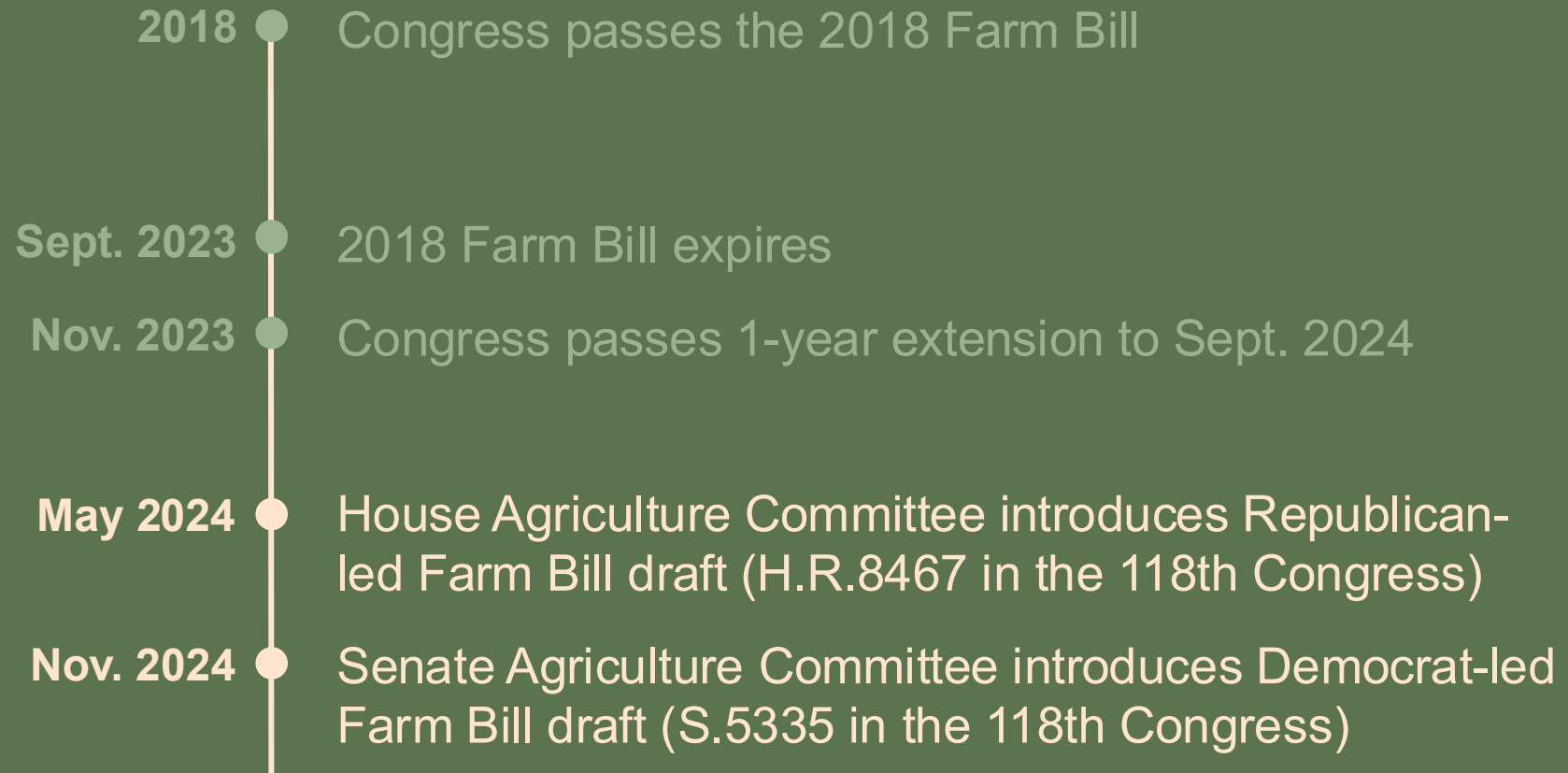
A new Farm Bill is very overdue

2018 ● Congress passes the 2018 Farm Bill

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Jan. 2025

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



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July 2025 ● Congress passes the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1), which includes numerous provisions typically passed in a Farm Bill

OBBA made significant changes to SNAP

OBBA Change	Impact on Tribes	Effective Date
Reduces LIHEAP deductions for households without an elderly or disabled member for income eligibility and benefits determination	• Lost eligibility or decreased benefits for Tribal members using the deduction • Eligible Tribal members may switch to FDPIR	7/2025

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Expands work requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) to include adults 18-64 with children 14+ years old. Members of federally recognized Tribes are exempted!	• Tribal citizens should not be impacted by work changes, but USDA has provided little guidance to states on verifying Tribal citizenship • Tribes may wish to provide feedback to USDA and States on verifying citizenship	7/2025

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Eliminates of the internet service payment deduction for income eligibility and benefits determination	• Lost eligibility or decreased benefits for Tribal members using the deduction • Eligible Tribal members may switch to FDPIR	10/2025

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State cost-share for SNAP administrative costs increased to 75% from 50%	• States may shift resources/benefits to meet cost share, make it more difficult to participate in SNAP, or leave SNAP entirely -> decreased food assistance • Eligible Tribal members may switch to FDPIR	10/2026

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States newly responsible for cost-share of SNAP benefits based on payment error rates from FY25 or FY26	• States may shift resources/benefits to meet cost share, make it more difficult to participate in SNAP, or leave SNAP entirely -> decreased food assistance • Eligible Tribal members may switch to FDPIR	10/2027 (extensions to 10/2029 for states with v high error rates)

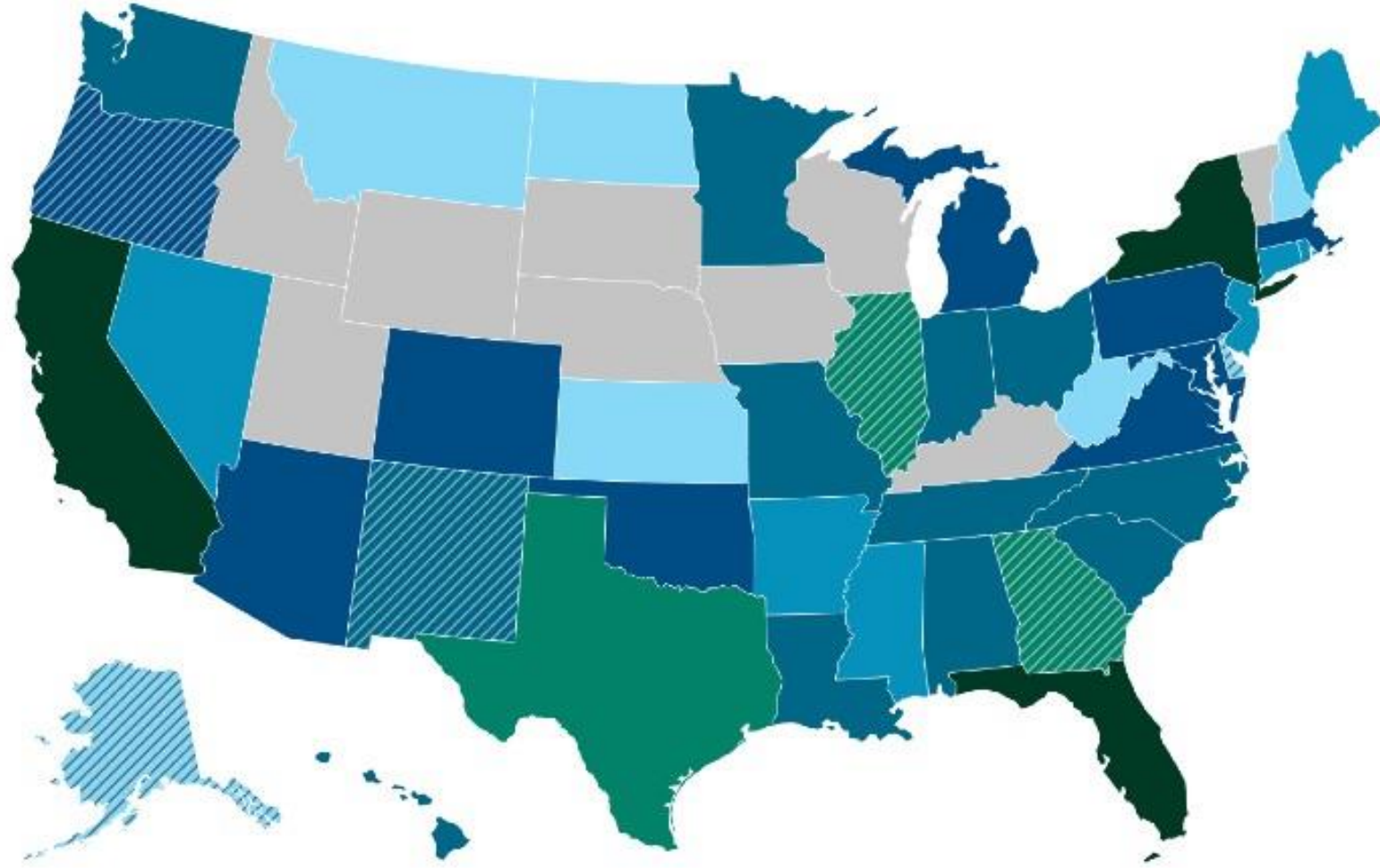
- SNAP benefits cost share will cost tens to hundreds of millions.
- States will need to modify benefits or eligibility requirements to reduce costs.
- Some states may elect to leave SNAP entirely

Estimated SNAP Benefit Cost Share

Based on FY2025 Payment Error Rates

■ No cost share ■ \$10 million to \$49 million ■ \$50 million to \$99 million ■ \$100 million to \$199 million
■ \$200 million to \$499 million ■ \$500 million to \$999 million ■ \$1 billion to \$2 billion

/// State able to delay implementation based on a high error rate



One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R.1) included provisions typically covered in the Farm Bill

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 generally oppose changes to nutrition program
- Ultimately makes it much more difficult to pass a "Skinny Farm Bill" covering remaining USDA programs

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- 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

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- Feb. 2026** ● House Agriculture Committee introduces the 2026 H.R.7567 - Farm, Food, and National Security Act
- April 2026** ● House passes H.R.7567

IFAI RESOURCES ON THE 2026 HOUSE FARM BILL



- Key takeaways for Indian Country
- Section-by-section analysis
- Amendment tracker
- Webinar

<https://indigenousfoodandag.com/policy-briefing/house-passes-farm-bill/>

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- Feb. 2026** ● House Agriculture Committee introduces the 2026 Farm Bill, H.R.7567 - Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026
- April 2026** ● House passes H.R.7567
- June 2026** ● Senate Agriculture Committee releases Farm Bill discussion draft



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TITLE I COMMODITIES



Senate	House
ELAP • Explicitly allows payments for transportation costs for hauling feed and water, adverse weather, and winter stockpile grazing losses as eligible losses.	• No equivalent provision

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Specialty Crop Disaster Assistance Framework • Creates a new disaster assistance framework for specialty crops to provide improved predictability and assistance	• Similar or identical provision

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Specialty Crop Disaster Assistance Framework • Creates a new disaster assistance framework for specialty crops to provide improved predictability and assistance	• Similar or identical provision
FSA processing of certain loans • Allows FSA to process Market Access Loans and Sugar Processing Loans during a government shutdown	• Similar or identical provision

TITLE II CONSERVATION



Senate	House
Conservation funding • EQIP: Cuts funding by \$1.92 billion over the next 5 years. • CSP: Cuts funding by \$200 million over the next 5 years	• Cuts EQIP funding by \$1.05 billion • No changes to CSP

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Conservation practices standards • Establishes new process for NRCS to regularly review and update conservation standards, including opportunity for public comment • NO required Tribal consultation or consideration of TEK	• Similar requirement to update conservation practice standards but explicitly includes consideration of TEK and input from Tribal entities

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Agricultural Conservation Easement Program • Increases federal cost share from 50% to 60%	• Increases federal cost share to 65% • Allows increased cost share of 90% for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

TITLE II CONSERVATION



Senate	House
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) • Sets deadline of 180 days for USDA to review partnerships • Clarifies that RCPP can be used to address flooding and droughts • Gives priority to projects that build new partnerships with Tribes, in addition to partnerships State and local governments • Authorizes advanced payments • Caps federal cost share at \$15 million • Increases indirect costs payments from 10% to 15%	• Does not add priority for partnerships with Tribes • Adds requirement that payments are made within 30 days of receipt • No cap on federal contribution • For AFAs, sets new minimum cost share of 50%

TITLE II CONSERVATION



Senate

Emergency Conservation Program

- Newly allows ECP to be used for replacing or restoring farmland/conservation structures. Previously restricted to fencing.
- Increases advanced payments percentage
- Expand eligibility to operators on federal or state land

House

- Does not expand eligible costs to farm structures
- Does not expand eligibility to operators on federal or state land

TITLE II CONSERVATION



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Emergency Conservation Program • Newly allows ECP to be used for replacing or restoring farmland/conservation structures. Previously restricted to fencing. • Increases advanced payments percentage • Expand eligibility to operators on federal or state land	• Does not expand eligible costs to farm structures • Does not expand eligibility to operators on federal or state land
State Conservation Assistance Program • Establishes a new program for assisting States and Tribes with implementing conservation assistance programs to improve soil health, wildlife habitat, and other local resource concerns • Federal cost share is 75% for Tribes (50% for States), capped at \$5 million • Funding: \$50 million/year for five year	• Establishes a similar program but entirely focused on soil health • Funded at \$100 million/year

TITLE IV NUTRITION



Senate

House

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

- Requires USDA to consult with Tribes and Tribal organizations prior to evaluating new warehouse and distribution contracts for FDPIR, and to consider Tribal feedback throughout the evaluation process.

- No equivalent provisions

TITLE IV NUTRITION



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- Requires USDA to consult with Tribes and Tribal organizations prior to evaluating new warehouse and distribution contracts for FDPIR, and to consider Tribal feedback throughout the evaluation process.
- Requires USDA to designate an emergency contractor within 45 days if the Secretary determines there has been a supply chain disruption for CSFP or FDPIR, including those caused by a warehousing issue

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- Requires USDA to designate an emergency contractor within 45 days if the Secretary determines there has been a supply chain disruption for CSFP or FDPIR, including those caused by a warehousing issue
- Authorizes USDA to provide direct payments or reimbursements to FDPIR ITOs for food purchases during a supply chain disruption

- No equivalent provisions

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- Authorizes USDA to provide direct payments or reimbursements to FDPIR ITOs for food purchases during a supply chain disruption
- Requires USDA to conduct annual consultations with Tribes/ITOs on CSFP and to implement CSFP in a way that is responsive to the needs of Tribes.

- No equivalent provisions

TITLE IV
NUTRITION CON'T

Senate	House
CSFP Home Delivery Pilot Creates a pilot program for home delivery of CSFP food packages	Similar or identical

TITLE IV NUTRITION CON'T



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CSFP Home Delivery Pilot Creates a pilot program for home delivery of CSFP food packages	Similar or identical
SNAP Staffing flexibility - Allows States to contract out SNAP certification or other limited functions under certain circumstances - Contractors are prohibited from determining eligibility, initiating enforcement actions, conducting quality control, conducting administrative hearings, or screening for or making referrals to an employment or training program.	Establishes a similar program but does not include the same guardrails on contractor activities

TITLE IV NUTRITION CON'T



Senate	House
Strengthening Local Food Security Program • Establishes a non-competitive program for States and Tribes to purchase locally produced foods for distribution to the local community • At least 51% of purchased foods must be purchased from small or mid-sized producers, beginning farmers or ranchers, and veterans • 10% of funds are set aside for Tribes • Authorizes \$200 million/year in appropriations	• Similar provision, but only requires 25% of foods from certain types of farmers

TITLE IV NUTRITION CON'T



Senate	House
• No equivalent provision	638 for CSFP • Establishes a pilot demonstration project for Tribes/ITOs for CSFP
• No equivalent provision	Office of Self-Determination • Directs USDA to designate an existing office to oversee self-determination contracts • Provides \$1.2 million in authorization of appropriations to support the office

Neither bill makes permanent the 638 demonstration for FDPIR.

TITLE V CREDIT



Senate	House
Essential Community Facility loans • Allows Farm Credit System (FCS) banks to provide loans for essential community facilities in rural areas <u>or</u> Tribal areas • Essential community facilities include community centers, healthcare facilities, childcare facilities, and others	• Similar provision but limits loans to rural areas. A tribal project would need to be in a rural area to qualify for a loan.

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Increased FSA loan limits • Farm Ownership Loan: \$850,000 (up from \$600,000) • Farm Ownership Loan Guarantee: \$3.5 million (up from \$1.75 million) • Farm Operating Loan: \$750,000 (up from \$400,000) • Farm Operating Loan Guarantee: \$3 million (up from \$1.75 million)	• Same increase for farm ownership loans • No change to farm operating loans

TITLE V CREDIT CON'T



Senate	House
Implementation of 2024 Tribal Advisory Committee recommendations • Eliminates the \$300,150 cap on the Beginner Farmer Down Payment Loan • Increases FSA Microloan amount to \$100,000 from \$50,000 • Allows distressed guaranteed loans to be refinanced as direct loans • Allows FSA to use funds set-aside for beginning farmers and ranchers earlier in the year • Allows borrowers who received loan forgiveness to become re-eligible for FSA loans after 7 years	• Similar or identical

TITLE V CREDIT CON'T



Senate	House
Loans for commercial fishing or fish processing • Allows individuals engaged in commercial fishing or fish processing to access FSA Farm Operating Loans	• Similar, but would also provide access to FSA Farm Ownership Loans

TITLE VI RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Senate	House
Tribal Colleges and University Community Facilities • Reauthorizes, but does not change. Max authorization of appropriations has been \$10 million since 2008	• Identical or similar

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Senate	House
Tribal Colleges and University Community Facilities Reauthorizes, but does not change. Max authorization of appropriations has been \$10 million since 2008	Identical or similar
Water and Wastewater Emergency Preparedness Technical Assistance Establishes new program to provide TA to Tribes, among others, with preparing, restoring, and protecting critical water and wastewater services in response to manmade or natural disasters.	No equivalent provision

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Assistance for Rural Water Systems • Establishes a new grant and low-interest loan program to rural water systems in disadvantaged or economically distressed communities. • Eligibility is dependent on an index of water affordability	• Does not include grants • Includes distressed Tribal areas as eligible for loans

TITLE VI RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONT



Senate

House

Healthy Drinking Water

- Establishes new program to provide grants for water quality testing and for purchasing, installing, and maintaining water filtration systems for homeowners, renters, and childcare facilities
- No equivalent provision

TITLE VI RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONT



Senate	House
Healthy Drinking Water Establishes new program to provide grants for water quality testing and for purchasing, installing, and maintaining water filtration systems for homeowners, renters, and childcare facilities	No equivalent provision
Solid Waste Management Grants Makes Tribes newly eligible	Identical or similar provision

TITLE VI RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONT



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Solid Waste Management Grants Makes Tribes newly eligible	Identical or similar provision
Zero-Interest Loans for Rural Hospitals Authorizes new zero-interest loans for rural hospitals	No equivalent provision

TITLE VI RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONT



Senate	House
Meat Processing Grants • Establishes a new grant program for establishing new, small and very small meat processing facilities • Authorizes \$25 million/year in appropriations	• Similar provision but only authorizes \$3 million in appropriations

TITLE VII RESEARCH AND EDUCATION



Senate	House
Education grants for Alaska Native and Hawaii Native Serving Institutions Increases authorization of appropriations from \$10 million to \$15 million each, the first increase since 2001	Reauthorizes program but does not increase funding

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New Beginnings for Tribal Students Reauthorizes but does make changes	Eliminates the \$500,000 per state cap

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New Beginnings for Tribal Students Reauthorizes but does make changes	Eliminates the \$500,000 per state cap
Tribal College and University funding - Eliminates cap on authorization of appropriations - Extends authorization for endowment funds - Allows TCUs to use research grants for equipment - Eliminates requirement for TCUs to do research through a cooperative agreement with ARS or non-TCU land grants	Similar or identical provision

TITLE VII RESEARCH AND EDUCATION



Senate	House
Report on Extension Services in Indian Country Requires GAO to study on access to extension services in Indian Country	No equivalent provision

TITLE VIII FORESTRY



Senate

Water Source Protection Program

- Expands funding, eligibility, and geographic scope to include adjacent, non-federal lands including Tribal lands
- Reduces the minimum cost-share to 20%
- Allows USDA to waive cost-share

House

- Makes similar changes but does not explicitly include Tribal lands in definition of adjacent, non-federal land

TITLE VIII FORESTRY



Senate	House
Water Source Protection Program • Expands funding, eligibility, and geographic scope to include adjacent, non-federal lands including Tribal lands • Reduces the minimum cost-share to 20% • Allows USDA to waive cost-share	• Makes similar changes but does not explicitly include Tribal lands in definition of adjacent, non-federal land
Good Neighbor Authority for Tribes • Ensures Tribes are eligible to participate in GNA agreements • Allows Tribes to retain revenue from timber sales for restoration projects • Allows funding to be used for permanent roads under certain circumstances	• Similar or identical provision

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Good Neighbor Authority for Tribes • Ensures Tribes are eligible to participate in GNA agreements • Allows Tribes to retain revenue from timber sales for restoration projects • Allows funding to be used for permanent roads under certain circumstances	• Similar or identical provision
Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program • Allows USDA to consider if a proposal supports Tribal integrated resource management plan or forest management plan in selecting proposals	• Similar or identical provision

TITLE VIII FORESTRY CON'T



Senate	House
White Oak Restoration • Establishes a new coalition for white oak restoration that includes Tribes • Establishes a white oak restoration program that will coordinate among Federal, Tribal, and State governments • Requires Tribal consultation	• Similar provisions but does not require Tribal consultation

TITLE VIII FORESTRY CON'T



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White Oak Restoration • Establishes a new coalition for white oak restoration that includes Tribes • Establishes a white oak restoration program that will coordinate among Federal, Tribal, and State governments • Requires Tribal consultation	• Similar provisions but does not require Tribal consultation
Tree nursery shortage • Directs USDA to develop a national reforestation strategy to increase capacity of tree nurseries, including those operated by Tribes • Directs the reforestation strategy to consider TEK	• Similar or identical

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Tree nursery shortage • Directs USDA to develop a national reforestation strategy to increase capacity of tree nurseries, including those operated by Tribes • Directs the reforestation strategy to consider TEK	• Similar or identical
Civilian Conservation Centers • Establishes a new program to support workforce development in forestry and wildland fire fighting • Requires consultation with Tribes to identify workforce needs	• No equivalent provision

TITLE VIII FORESTRY CON'T



Senate	House
Tribal Forestry Protection Management • Allows Tribes to carry out TFPA restoration projects on a wider range of lands, including Indian forest and rangeland, ANC land, and culturally, historically, or geographically important Federal lands. • Previously, TFPA activities were limited to federal lands adjacent to Indian forest and rangeland	• No equivalent provision, though the House makes a technical correction to make permanent the TFPA 638 Demonstration Project

TITLE X HORTICULTURE



Senate	House
Local Agriculture Market Program • Expands LAMP to support food hubs and regional food chain coordination	• Makes similar changes, but also allows LAMP to be used for special purpose equipment purchases

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Senate	House
Local Agriculture Market Program • Expands LAMP to support food hubs and regional food chain coordination	• Makes similar changes, but also allows LAMP to be used for special purpose equipment purchases
Office of Urban and Innovative Agriculture • Expands mission to include support for controlled-environment agriculture • Directs the Office to use resources of USDA, State, Tribes, and local agencies to provide technical assistance to small agribusinesses • Directs the Office to assist small agribusinesses with navigating Federal, State, and Tribal regulations • Allows USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with Tribes to promote urban and innovative agriculture • Expands eligibility for programs addressing food waste to Tribes	• Similar or identical

TITLE XI

CROP INSURANCE



Senate	House
Crop insurance subsidies for beginning and veteran producers Increases subsidies to assist beginning veteran farmers and ranchers to 15% for first two years of farming, decreasing over time to 10% for years 5-10	Similar or identical

TITLE XII MISCELLANEOUS



Senate

House

Interstate Internet Sales of State-Inspected Meat and Poultry

- Allows state-inspected meat to be sold across state lines online if sales are direct to consumers and in normal retail quantities
- No equivalent provision

TITLE XII MISCELLANEOUS



Senate	House
Interstate Internet Sales of State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Allows state-inspected meat to be sold across state lines online if sales are direct to consumers and in normal retail quantities	No equivalent provision
Country-of-Origin Labeling for Certain Crab and Salmon Products Establishes mandatory country-of-origin labeling requirements for cooked king crab, cooked tanner crab, and cooked and canned salmon. Only products harvested and processed in the U.S. can be labeled as a product of the U.S.	No equivalent provision

TITLE XII MISCELLANEOUS



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Office of Seafood - Codifies the Office of Seafood and directs it to improve coordination between USDA and other Federal, State, and local entities on domestic seafood - Requires consultation with seafood harvesters and processors	Similar provision codifies Office of Seafood

FULL ANALYSIS ON IFAI'S WEBSITE

July 9, 2026

Agriculture Act of 2026

The Senate Farm Bill discussion draft, the *Agriculture Act of 2026*, was introduced on June 23, 2026. IFAI has reviewed the 902-page bill and identified provisions that specifically reference Tribes or related keywords, or that may have significant impact on Tribal Nations and Native producers. The tables below summarize these provisions and make comparisons to the House's Farm Bill, the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026* ([H.R.7567](#)), which was passed by the House on April 30, 2026. This summary is not comprehensive, and other provisions may have impacts on Tribal communities.

Title I – Commodities

Sec.	Section title	Description and analysis	Comparison to House Farm Bill
Sec. 1102	Servicing of Loans	This section would require the Secretary to continue processing Market Access Loans (MAL) and Sugar Processing Loans during a government shutdown. These programs are administered by county Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices, which have historically been closed during government shutdowns. Last year, three weeks into the extended 2025 government shutdown, USDA partially reopened FSA offices and allowed them to process MAL, disaster aid, indemnity programs, dairy margin coverage, and ARC/PLC, providing relief to producers. This section would ensure that producers, including Native producers, would continue receiving payments from MAL and sugar processing loans during a future government shutdown. However, it would not address a key challenge for Native producers during the 2025 shutdown: getting two-party checks 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, Native ranchers were unable to get their checks endorsed, delaying payments for work they had already completed.	Similar or identical to Sec. 1008
Sec. 1302	Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance	The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) compensates ranchers for above normal loss of livestock due to adverse weather, disease, and attacks by federally protected animals. This provision expands LIP to include above normal loss of unweaned livestock, adds weight	No equivalent provision



<https://indigenoustoodandag.com/policy-briefing/ifai-analysis-senate-farm-bill/>



AGENDA

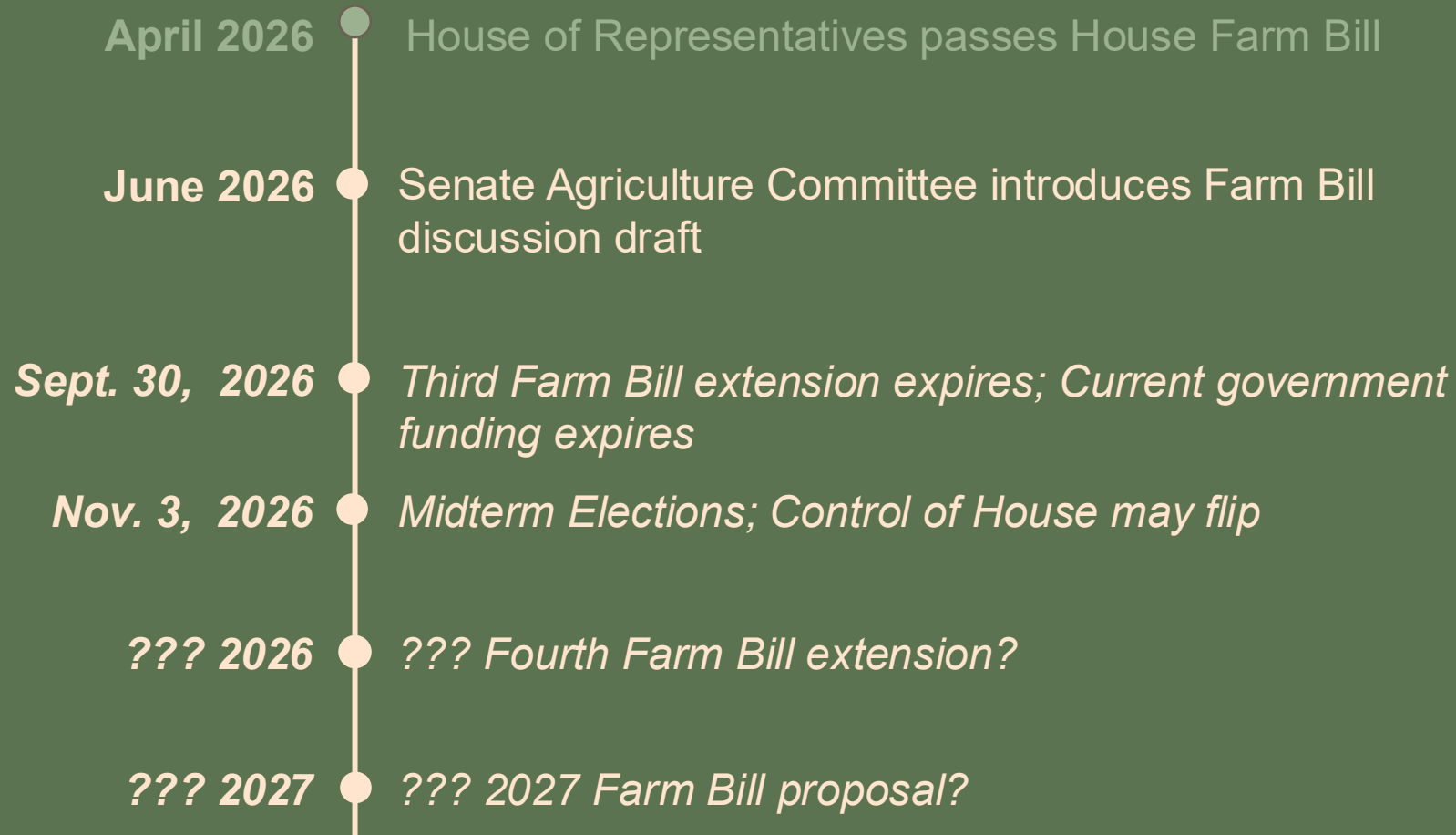
- What is the Farm Bill?
- How did we get to 2026 without a Farm Bill?
- What's in the 2026 House Farm Bill?
- **What's next?**



Congress is unlikely to pass a Farm Bill in 2026

- Senate Democrats will oppose the Farm Bill without a delay of SNAP cost-share requirements
- Senate Ag Chairman John Boozman (R-Ark.) wants to advance Farm Bill in committee this month, but doesn't have the votes due to Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) absence.
- Running out of legislative time
 - August recess
 - Midterm elections
 - Other priorities

Farm Bill outlook for 2026



QUESTIONS?

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