

Summary of Farm Bill Recommendations

Summary of NRDC Policy Recommendations for the Farm Bill, from our 2022 report, *Regenerative Agriculture: Farm Policy for the 21st Century*

LEVEL THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT PLAYING FIELD AND INCENTIVIZE REGENERATIVE STEWARDSHIP	SUPPORT REGENERATIVE FARMERS AND RANCHERS
<p>PRIORITY: Make permanent a crop insurance incentive for cover crops. (Congress)</p> <p>PRIORITY: Direct the USDA to act on its existing authority to provide a performance-based crop insurance discount to adjust insurance rates for practices proven to reduce risk of crop failure. (Congress)</p> <p>PRIORITY: Coordinate agroforestry capabilities across USDA. Support farmers and ranchers with integrating trees on land as a way to transition more acres to regenerative stewardship. (Congress)</p> <p>Increase staff training and resources for Whole-Farm Revenue Protection under existing authority. (USDA)</p> <p>Reform Federal Crop Insurance Program by eliminating yield-exclusion provision, reducing subsidies that don't provide conservation benefit, applying income caps for eligibility, and expanding conservation compliance provisions. (Congress)</p> <p>Amend USDA Disaster Assistance Programs to reward farmers and ranchers who participate in conservation programs that build soil health. (Congress)</p> <p>Authorize an increased level of baseline funding for federal conservation programs. Appropriate full conservation spending on authorized level through annual appropriations. (Congress)</p> <p>Increase acreage and authorized funding for Conservation Reserve Program and fully fund through annual appropriations process. (Congress)</p>	<p>PRIORITY: Create a transition program to fund comprehensive investments in regenerative and certified organic agriculture. Transition program can be funded by redirecting or using existing USDA resources. Alternatively, Congress can create a mechanism to use crop insurance savings from risk-reducing practices to help fund transitions to regenerative agriculture. (Congress)</p> <p>Increase funding for Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program and raise the cap for Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grants. (Congress)</p> <p>Fund robustly the support for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers in Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (FOTO) Program, and include soil-health education and measurements in FOTO grants. (Congress)</p> <p>Increase funding to New Farmer Mentorship program and recruit more BIPOC mentors and mentees. Compensate mentors and mentees for their time through existing funding. (USDA)</p> <p>Revise Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) practice standards to be more inclusive of practices used by Indigenous farmers and ranchers. (USDA NRCS)</p> <p>Appoint a committee to work with Indigenous producers to ensure that ranking systems and practice standards are inclusive. (USDA NRCS)</p> <p>Allocate at least 10 percent of all federal Farm Bill conservation program funding to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. (Congress)</p> <p>Include language that recognizes tribal customs and practices and increase overall funding for Indigenous farmers and ranchers and tribal land throughout Farm Bill programs. (Congress)</p> <p>Include tribal groups and organizations in Farm Bill program design and implementation. (USDA)</p>
INVEST IN MORE DECENTRALIZED AND DIVERSE FOOD SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE	FUND REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION
<p>Reduce federal spending on CAFOS by removing Farm Bill language requiring 50 percent of EQIP funding to go to livestock. (Congress)</p> <p>Increase funding for Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program through annual appropriations. (Congress)</p> <p>Set aside at least 10 percent of VAPG program funding for underserved producers and create an additional set-aside for tribal applicants. (Congress)</p>	<p>PRIORITY: Authorize \$100 million in annual funds for the Soil Health Demonstration Trial. Increase funding for other on-farm research opportunities. (Congress)</p> <p>Authorize \$1.1 billion for conservation technical assistance to provide consistent, stable, and adequate funding for conservation districts. (Congress)</p> <p>Fully fund USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program at the \$60 million level that has already been authorized. (Congress)</p>