



# Farm Bill Update

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The image shows the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., during the "blue hour" of dusk. The sky is a deep, dark blue with some lighter, wispy clouds. The sun is just below the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that illuminates the lower part of the building and the sky. The Capitol's iconic white dome is the central focus, topped with the Statue of Freedom. The building's facade is lit from within, with several windows glowing with a warm yellow light. In the foreground, the silhouette of a equestrian statue is visible on the right side. The text "Farm Bill History" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Farm Bill History

# History & Evolution of the Farm Bill

## 18 Farm Bills in history

Reauthorized  
every 5 years

Longest – 9  
years

Shortest – 1  
year

First - Agriculture Adjustment  
Act of 1933 (54 pages long)

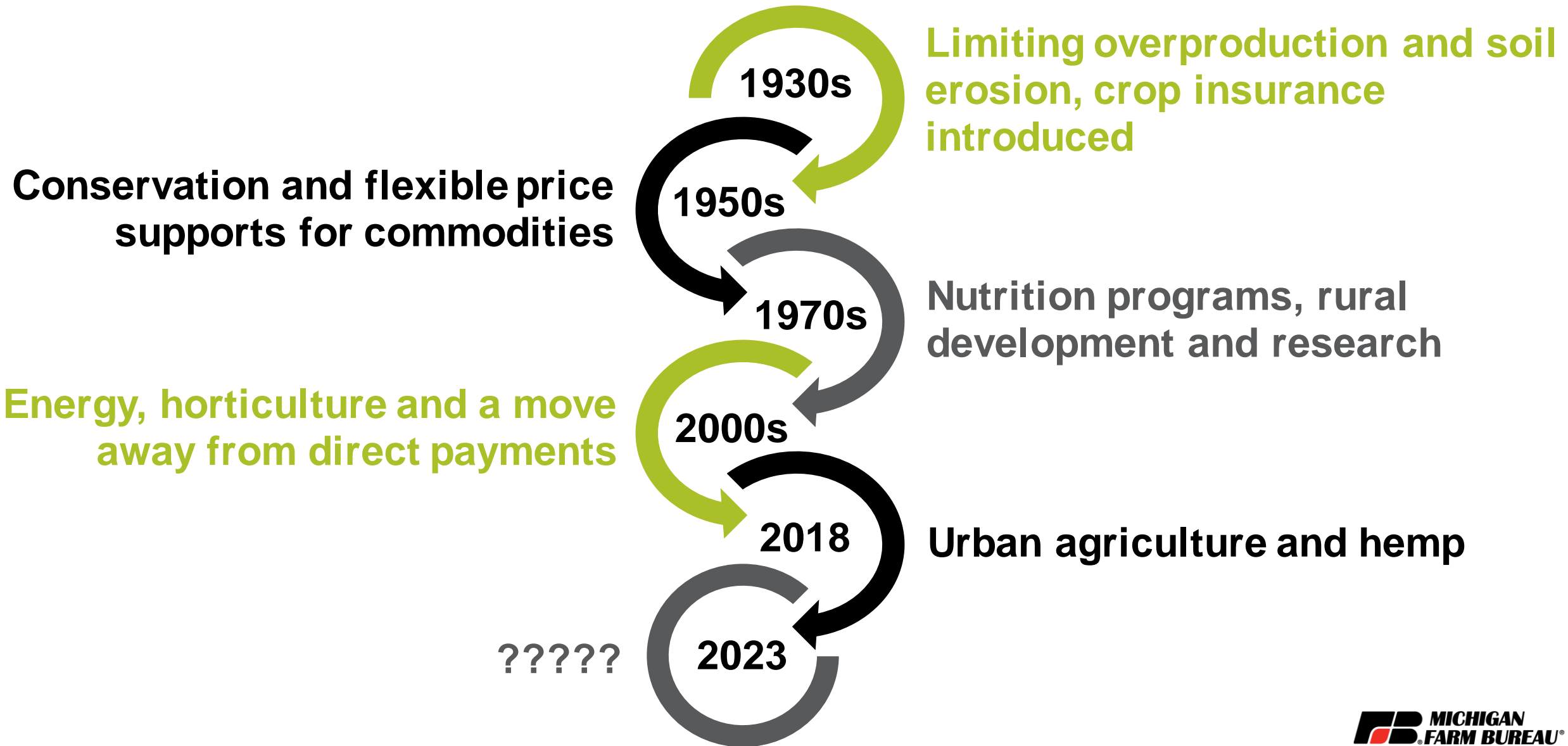
Current - Agriculture Improvement  
Act of 2018 (over 1,000 pages)

## Name Changes Through the Years

- Food and Agriculture Act
- Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act
- Food Security Act
- Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act
- Food, Conservation, and Energy Act
- Agriculture Improvement Act

*2 bills have not had agriculture or farm in the title*

# Focus Through the Years



# Farm Bill Titles

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
AGRICULTURE

JAMIE L. WHITTEN  
FEDERAL BUILDING

USDA VISITORS CENTER

# Farm Bill Titles

## Title I Commodities

- Programs for major commodity crops – wheat, corn, soybeans, peanuts, rice, etc.
- ARC & PLC
- Disaster assistance (NAP)
- Sugar
- Dairy
- Marketing Loans

## Title II Conservation

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

## Title III Trade

- Market Access Program (MAP)
- Foreign Market Development (FMD)
- Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops
- International Food Aid Programs

## Title IV Nutrition

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)
- Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Food bank programs
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program

# Farm Bill Titles

## Title V Credit

- Federal direct and guaranteed loans to farmers
- Ownership loans
- Operating loans
- Emergency loans
- Programs for Tribes
- Beginning Farmers

## Title VI Rural Development

- Rural Business Development
- Rural Cooperative Development
- Rural Food Processing
- Broadband Development
- Distance Learning & Telemedicine
- Rural Water & Wastewater

## Title VII Research, Extension, etc.

- University Research
- Extension Service
- Ag & Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
- Addressing critical shortage of veterinarians
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)
- Hemp research

## Title VIII Forestry

- Healthy Forests Restoration
- Restoration Program
- Wood Innovation Grant Program
- Rural Revitalization Technologies Program
- Statewide forest resource assessments and strategies

# Farm Bill Titles

## Title IX Energy

- Energy efficiency
- Biorefinery Assistance Program
- Biomass crops research
- Bio based Markets Program
- Biorefinery Assistance Program
- Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

## Title X Horticulture

- Specialty Crop Block Grants
- National Organic Program
- Food safety education
- Specialty crops market data
- Regulatory framework for hemp

## Title XI Crop Insurance

- Meant to provide coverage for crop loss
- Federally supported, sold by private sector
- Expands crop insurance to specialty crops
- Discounts for new & beginning farmers
- Whole Farm Revenue Protection

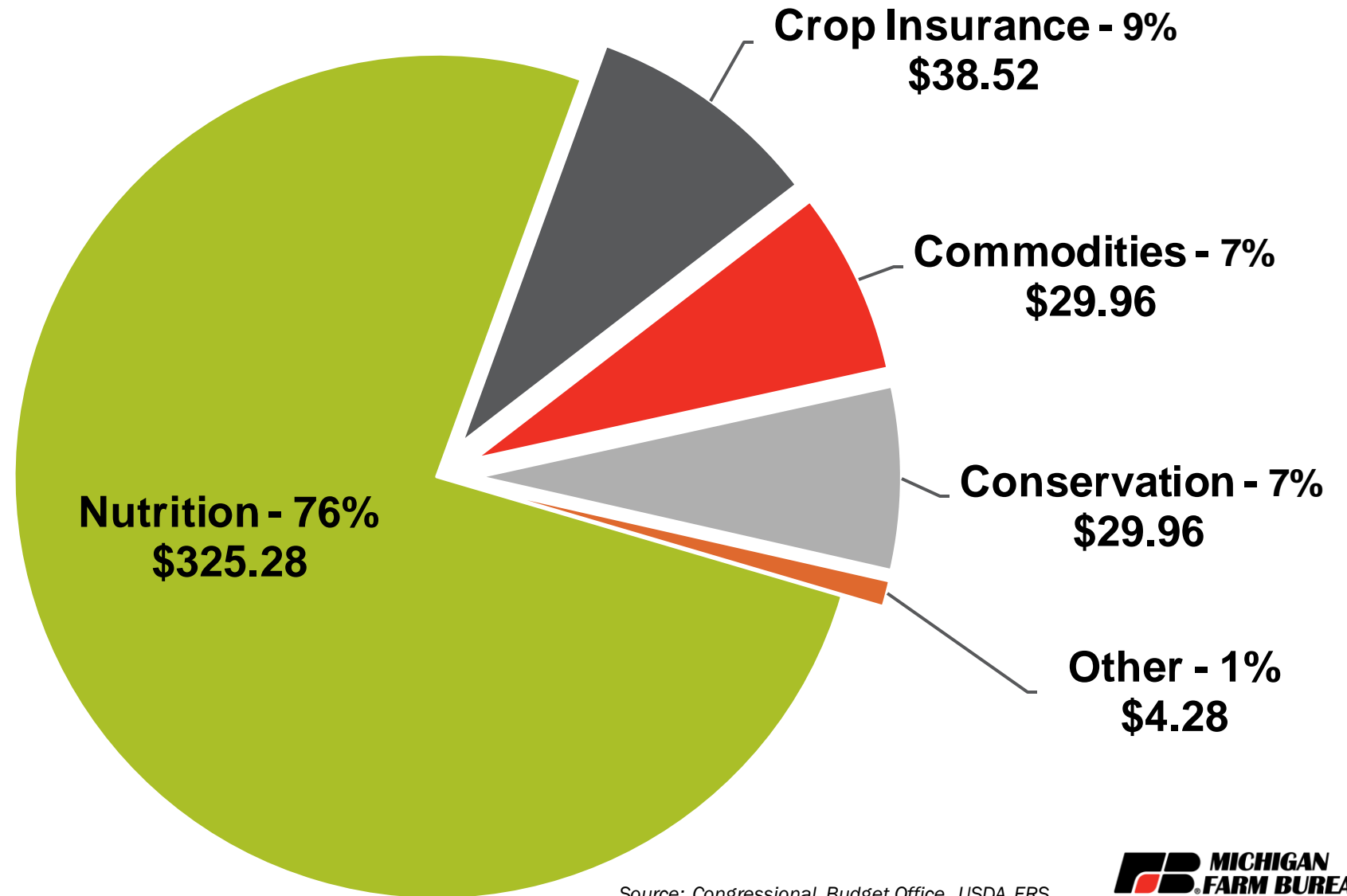
## Title XII Miscellaneous

- Pilot program to eliminate feral swine
- National Animal Health Laboratory Network
- Programs for disadvantaged farmers
- Programs for veterans
- Urban Agriculture



# 2018 Farm Bill Spending (in billions)

**Total outlay for  
2019 - 2023 =  
\$428 billion**

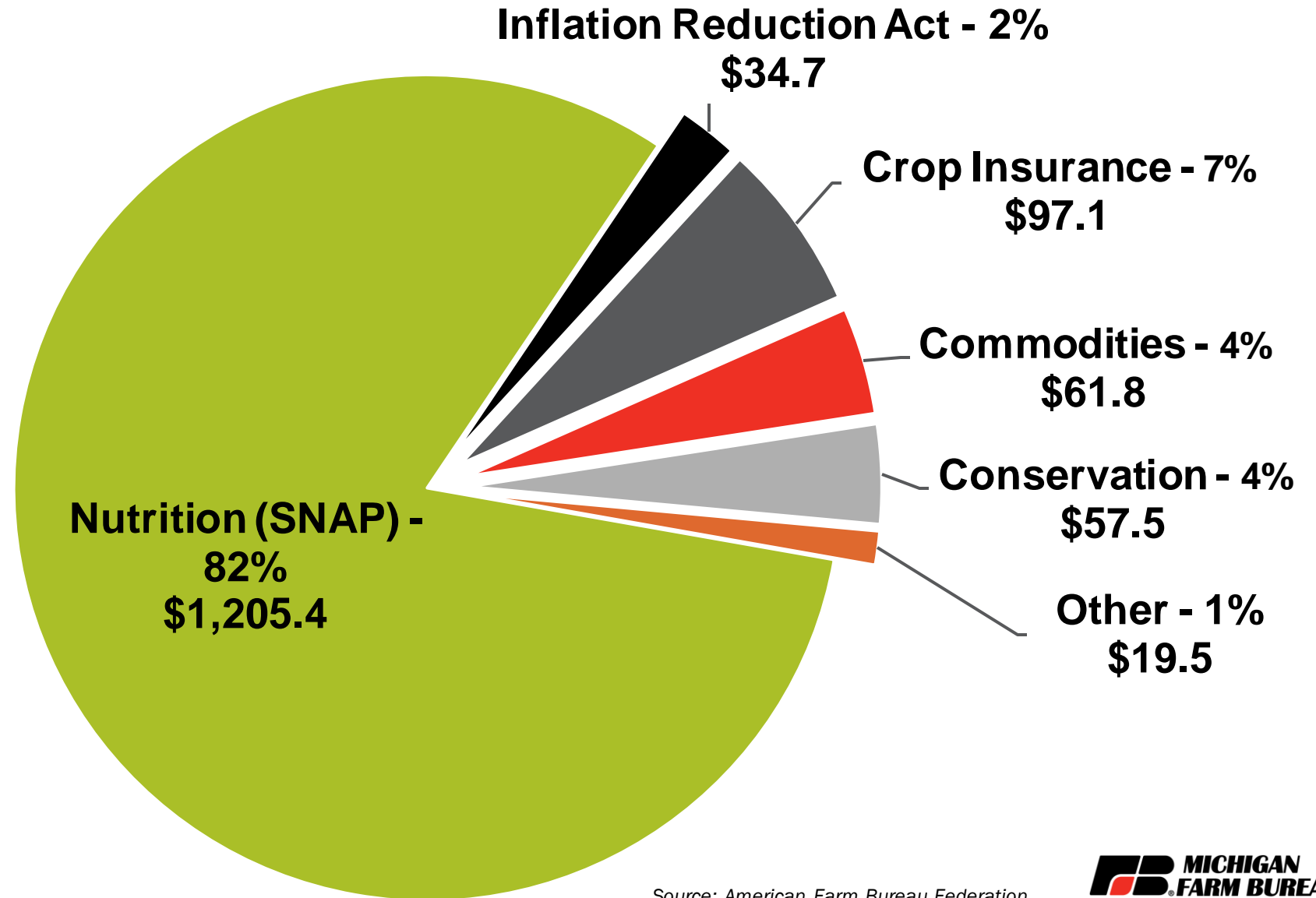


Source: Congressional Budget Office, USDA ERS

# Trillion-Dollar Farm Bill Projected, *10-Year Total*

**Total of \$1.5 trillion projected**

*Most expensive ever*



Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

# The Path to a Farm Bill is Always Winding

- **1996 Farm Bill** – First failed in committee
- **2002 Farm Bill** – Enacted one year early to address a crisis in farm country
- **2008 Farm Bill** – Vetoed and overridden TWICE
- ~~2012 2013~~ **2014 Farm Bill** – Passed through the Senate twice and failed on the House floor before being enacted
- **2018 Farm Bill** – Initially failed on the House floor, finally passed with all GOP votes and in the end a conference report was enacted that secured a record number of votes in both chambers

# Farm Bill Development Process



# The 4 Corners of Ag Policy

- **Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)**
  - The “seasoned” leader within the 4 corners
  - Priorities: nutrition, specialty crops, climate & urban agriculture
  - \*Will not seek re-election in 2024\*
- **Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR)**
  - New to the Ranking Member slot
  - Priorities: southern agriculture, research & nutrition
- **Chairman GT Thompson (R-PA)**
  - New to the Chair
  - Priorities: dairy, forestry and nutrition
- **Ranking Member David Scott (D-GA)**
  - New to the Ranking Member role
  - Priorities: racial equity, climate and southern commodities



# New Kids on the Block...

- Since passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, there are 260 legislators who have not been through the Farm Bill process
- House
  - 238 Representatives
- Senate
  - 22 Senators
- Committee Leadership
  - 3 out of 4 are new to their leadership roles



# Why the Farm Bill Matters in Michigan

## MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE



**46k** Farms



**9.7m** Acres



**1.1m** Jobs  
Supported by Ag

Source: NASS (2021), Feeding Economy (2022) | Michigan



## AGRICULTURE'S IMPACT



**\$188.3b** Food & Ag  
Economic Output

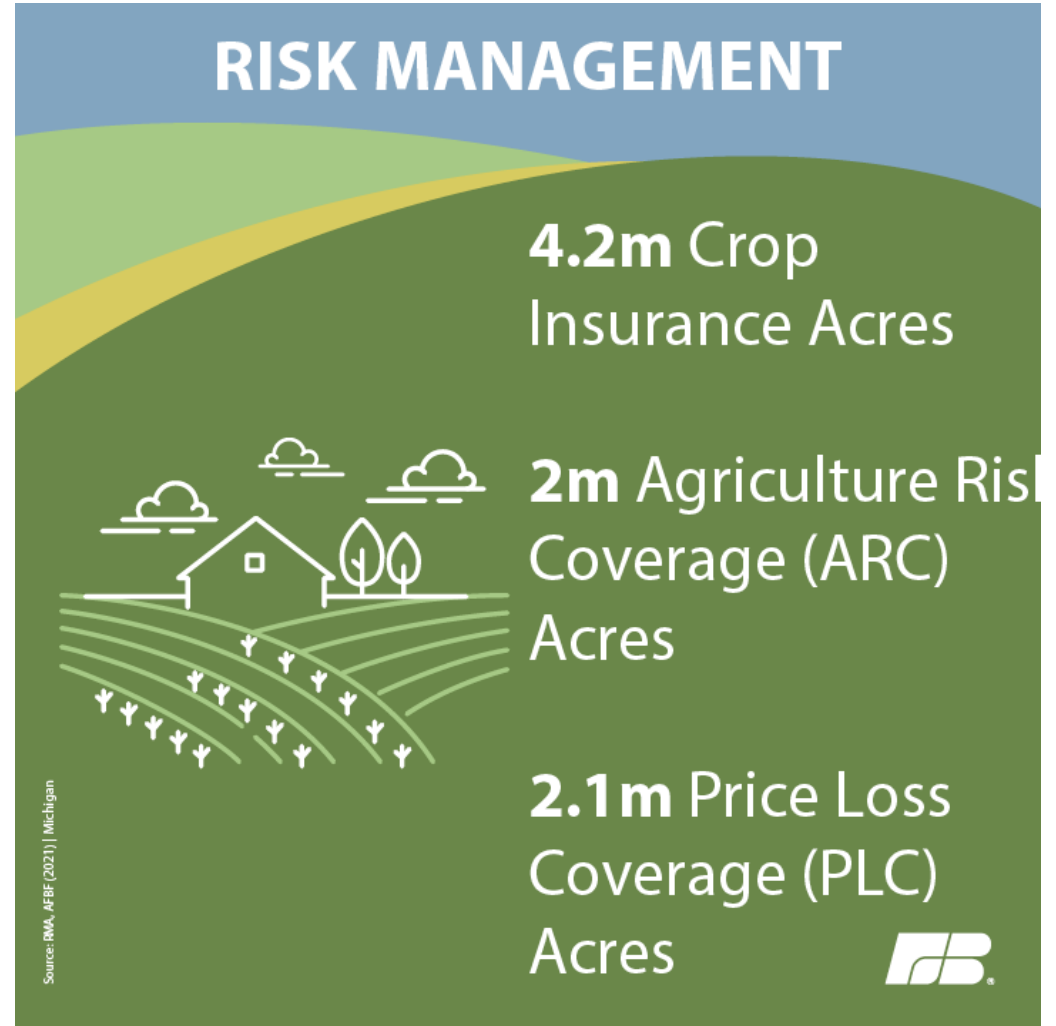
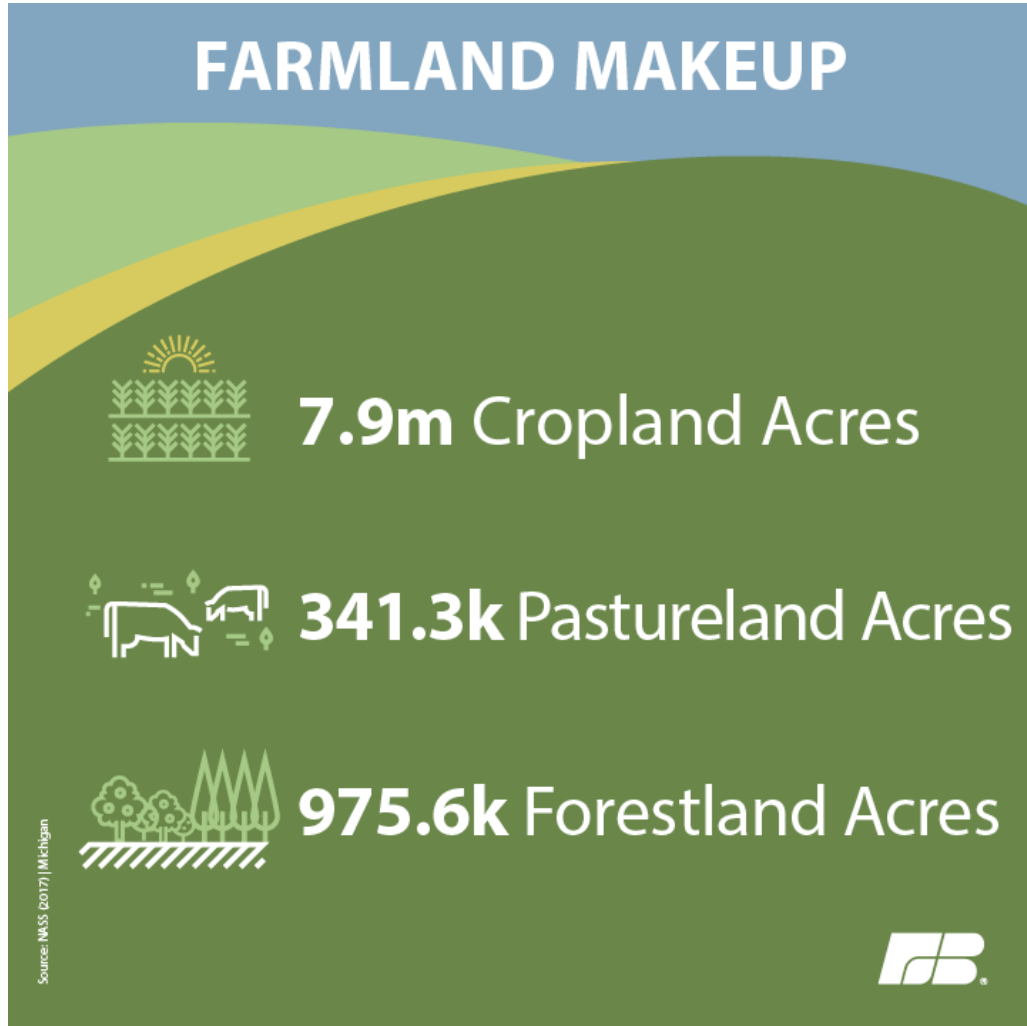


**\$10.3b** Gross Receipts  
from Sales of Crops  
& Livestock

Source: Feeding Economy (2022), ERS (2021) | Michigan



# Why it Matters - Risk Management





# Why it Matters - Conservation



# Why it Matters - Nutrition

## NUTRITION BY THE NUMBERS



**\$331.2m** SNAP Benefits



**1.3m** Individual Participants



**715.6k** Families

Source: FNS (2022, 2021) | Michigan



## SNAP: FEEDING MICHIGAN



**34.5m**  
Meals Provided



**2.3m**  
Lunches Served



**1.7m**  
Breakfasts Served

Source: FNS (2021) | Michigan



# 2023 Farm Bill Questions



- Farm Bill or Climate Bill?
- How do we handle disaster/ad hoc payments?
- Conservation title size?
- What do we tie to crop insurance?
- Politics/Make up of Congress

# 2023 AFBF Farm Bill Policy Priorities

- Protecting current farm bill program spending
- Maintaining a unified farm bill which keeps nutrition programs and farm programs together
- Prioritizing risk management tools and funding for both federal crop insurance and commodity programs
- Ensuring adequate USDA staffing capacity and technical assistance



# Other Farm Bill Items Farm Bureau Supports

- Retaining the current Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC) with supplemental and feed cost updates
- Working lands conservation programs over retirement lands programs
- Increased funding for the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program and Market Assistance Program (MAP)
- Minimizing loan application requirements for young and beginning farmers so they are more aligned with ag lenders
- Enhancements to Whole Farm Revenue Protection insurance

## ***Discussion Topic #1***

**If you have an extra \$35 billion for the next Farm Bill, where would you allocate the money (program/titles)?**

## ***Discussion Topic #2***

**If you must cut \$35 billion  
from the next Farm Bill,  
where would you cut it from  
(program/titles)?**

## ***Discussion Topic #3***

**Should the Farm Bill be a priority for federal legislators or are there other federal policy issues that should take precedence?**



## ***Discussion Topic #4***

**How can you personally  
impact the Farm Bill?**

## ***Discussion Topic #5***

**How do you talk to non-farmers about the benefits of the Farm Bill?**

## ***Discussion Topic #6***

**There is a lot of discussion about adding money to the conservation title for climate-related programs, is that a good idea, why or why not?**

# Contact Info

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