

# FARM BILL

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# Farm Bill Background

- Omnibus legislation reauthorized every 5 years
- Current Farm Bill expires September 2018
- 12 Titles in Farm Bill:
  - **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 – Misc.**

*Red text denotes ASTA  
priority title*

**asta**

american  
seed trade  
association

# Scuttlebutt, Rumors, and Other Gossip

- House Ag = bill text with Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
  - CBO “scores” the bill and dictates \$\$\$
  - Chairman Conaway committed to have bill voted out of the House by end of Q1
- Senate Ag = ???
  - Keeping their cards much closer to the chest
  - Long story short – no one really knows

# USDA Farm Bill Priorities

- Released in late January
- Very high level but promising. Includes:
  - Provide a variety of crop insurance options, encourage entry to young and beginning farmers
  - Open foreign markets by increasing USDA expertise in scientific and technical areas to more effectively monitor foreign practices that impede U.S. agricultural exports
  - Ensure that voluntary conservation programs balance farm productivity with conservation benefits so the most fertile and productive lands remain in production while land retired for conservation purposes favor more environmentally sensitive acres.
  - Commit to a public research agenda that places the United States at the forefront of food and agriculture scientific development.
  - Empower public-private partnerships to leverage federal dollars, increase capacity, and investments in infrastructure for modern food and agricultural science.

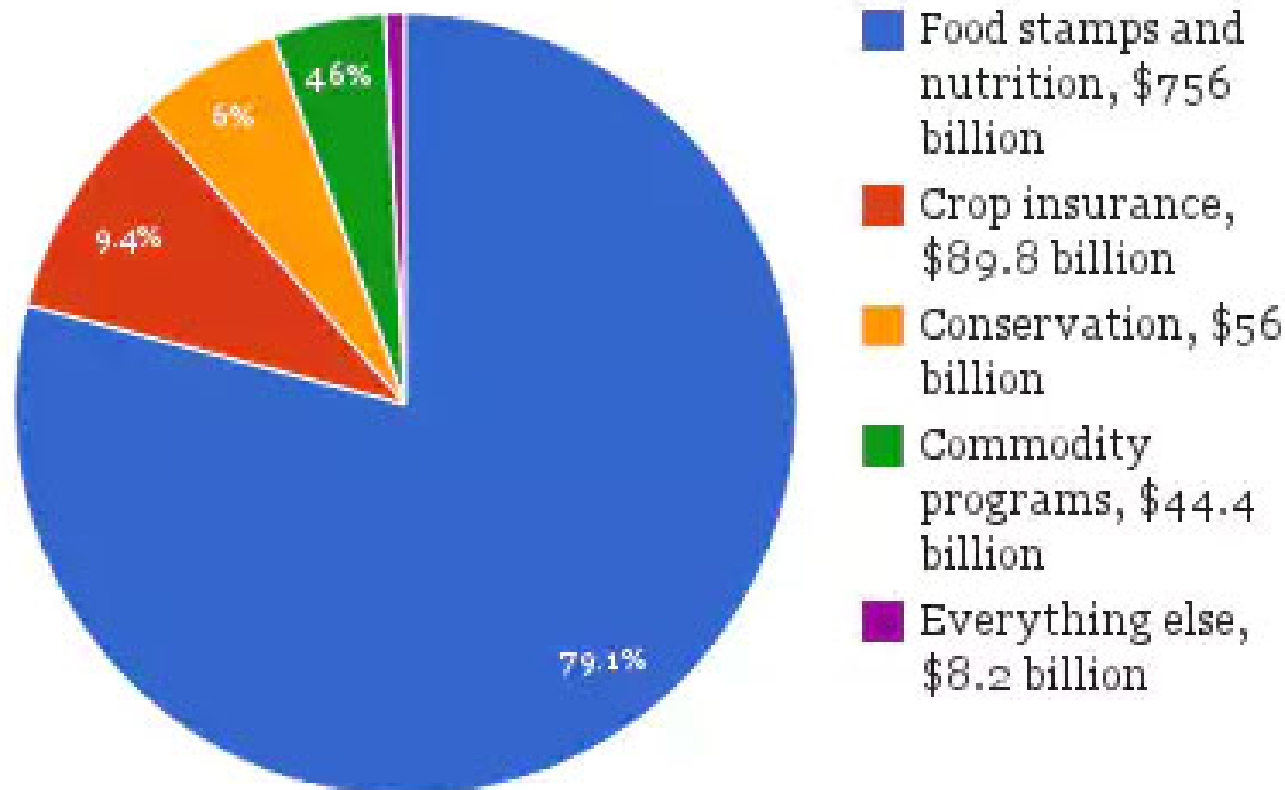


# Uphill Battle to the Farm Bill

- Cotton and dairy fixes – CRITICAL
  - WTO compliance critical for cotton
- Presidential Budget – to be released mid-February

# Show Me the Money

What's in the farm bill? (Costs from FY2014-2023)



Source: Washington Post

# Heritage Foundation

- Powerful far-right group in D.C. (very fiscally conservative)
- Farm Bill... not their favorite piece of legislation

COMMENTARY



## Congress Should Protect Taxpayers, Not Cave to Agricultural Special Interests

COMMENTARY



## Handouts to the Agriculture Industry Are Out of Control

COMMENTARY

*Daren Bakst* Apr 14, 2017 3 min read



## Congress Should Reduce Federal Farm Aid

*Daren Bakst* Aug 4, 2017 3 min read

# Hot Hot Hot Button Issues

- Crop insurance
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Politics... makes for strange bedfellows!







# TITLE I: COMMODITIES

- **ASTA RECOMMENDS:**
  - Maintain current Farm Bill language on hybrid seed production under ARC and PLC



# TITLE II: CONSERVATION

- **ASTA RECOMMENDS:**
  - Amend 7 CFR §610.24 to establish State Seed Subcommittees to address seeding recommendations under the State Technical Committees (STC).
    - Existing policy already allows for the formation of specialized subcommittees for specific issues – established precedence
    - The State Seed Subcommittee would be made up of NRCS employees, the State Conservationist, seed companies and ag input retailers and interested NGOs.

# TITLE II: CONSERVATION

- **Additional priorities:**

- Support language to provide regulatory clarity for the biostimulant industry (no formal definition of “plant biostimulant”).
  - Request inclusion as a Best Management Practice under Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Formal clarification/definition of Technical Service Providers (TSPs)
- Exempt NRCS cost-share participants from SAMS/DUNS reporting

# TITLE III: TRADE

- **ASTA RECOMMENDS:**
  - Increase funding for international trade programs that fund ASTA international work.
  - Programs include:
    - Market Access Program (MAP)
    - Foreign Market Development Program (FMD)
    - Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC)
- **ISSUE:** FMD and TASC have no baseline in 2018 Farm Bill

# TITLE VII: RESEARCH

- **ASTA RECOMMENDS:**
  - Avoid carve outs for funding of traditional plant breeding research
  - Support funding for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR)
  - Support funding for AFRI competitive grant program

# TITLE X: HORTICULTURE

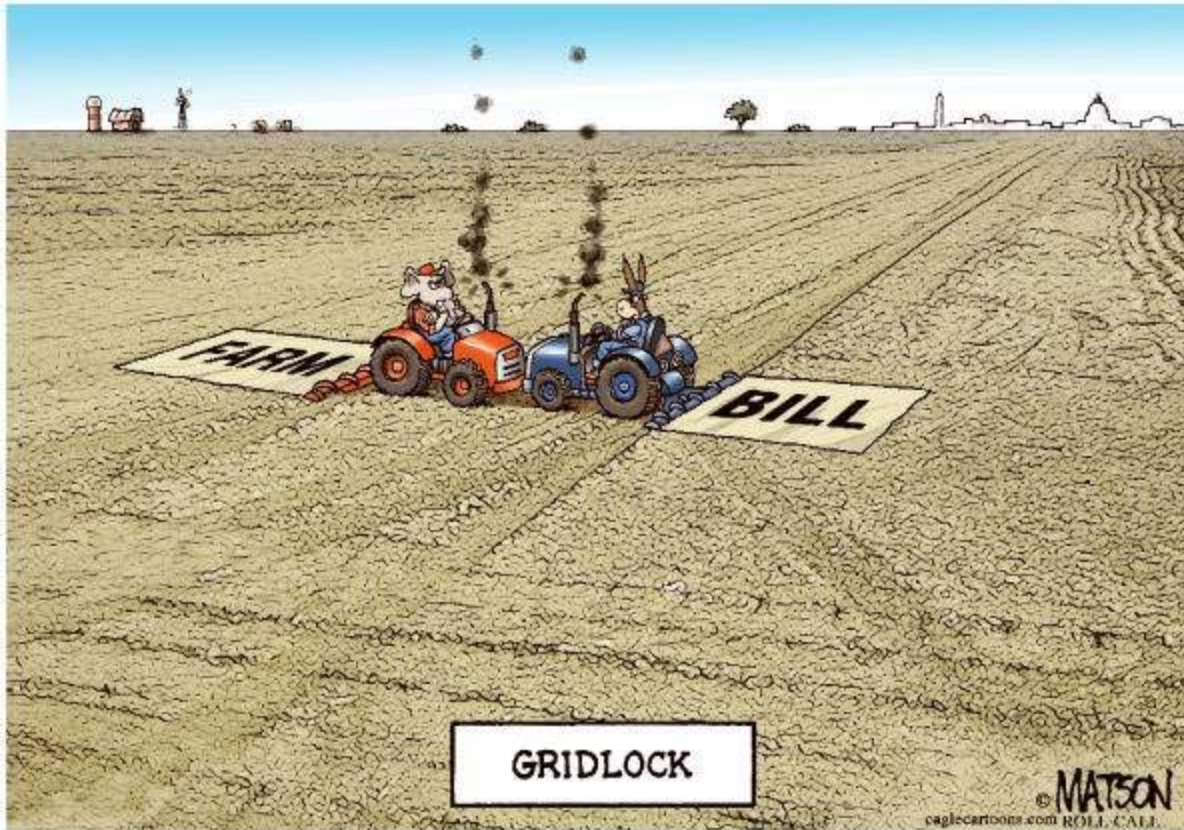
- **ASTA RECOMMENDS:**
  - Maintain funding for plant pest and disease prevention programs



# TITLE XI: CROP INSURANCE

- **ASTA RECOMMENDS:**
  - Support crop insurance
  - Modify NRCS termination guidelines for cover crop usage so there is no risk of losing crop insurance coverage (overlap with Title II)
  - ASTA is working to support efforts by NCGA and ASA to ensure a strong farm safety net for commodity growers.
  - Conaway: “Our mantra is ‘don’t screw up crop insurance.’”

# What we hope does not happen...





# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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