

Farm Bill Status as of March 6, 2026.

Analysis from the National Organic Coalition

The House Agriculture Committee has advanced the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 in a 34–17 vote, [supported by all Republicans on the committee and seven Democrats](#). The vote marks the first step in what will likely be a long and uncertain process to pass a new Farm Bill.

Congress has not enacted a new farm bill since 2018, relying instead on multiple short-term extensions that have carried the previous law forward to the present moment. While the bill includes a few modest improvements for organic agriculture, it ultimately fails to meet the needs of the rapidly growing organic sector.

The legislation largely assumes a stagnant organic marketplace rather than making the investments needed to support the continued growth of organic food and farming in the United States.

BROADER CONCERNS IN THE BILL

Beyond its shortcomings for organic agriculture, the legislation also includes several provisions that raise broader concerns for farmers, consumers, and rural communities.

Cuts to nutrition assistance.

The bill does not reverse the \$187 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enacted earlier through budget reconciliation legislation (H.R. 1). These reductions are expected to cause millions of Americans to lose some or all of their benefits while shifting additional costs to states.

Pesticide liability and state preemption.

The bill includes language that could shield pesticide manufacturers from certain lawsuits and limit the ability of states to establish their own warning labels or use restrictions. An amendment from Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) to remove this provision was voted down during committee markup.

Reduced conservation funding.

According to Congressional Budget Office estimates, EQIP would see roughly \$1 billion in reduced funding over the next four years. These cuts could limit farmers' ability to implement conservation practices and make it harder for producers to transition to or maintain organic production.

MODEST PROGRESS FOR ORGANIC

The bill maintains funding for several key organic programs, including the National Organic Program (NOP), the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (enacted previously through the reconciliation legislation in July 2025), and the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI).

It also includes a few improvements that NOC and our coalition members support:

Authorization of the Organic Transitions Program.

An amendment led by Rep. Eugene Vindman (D-VA) formally authorizes USDA's Organic Transitions Program, which supports research helping farmers move from conventional to organic production. The program has historically been funded through appropriations, but has never been formally authorized by statute. The new name for the program is the Researching the Transition to Organic Program (RTOP).

Higher payment limits for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative.

The legislation increases the payment cap for farmers participating in the EQIP Organic Initiative from \$140,000 to \$200,000 over five years. While this is a step forward, it still falls well below the \$450,000 limit available through the broader EQIP program.

Support for regionally adapted seeds and breeds.

The bill amends the current statutory language for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), USDA's biggest competitive grant research program, to include "regionally adapted" cultivar development, and "breeding for environmental resilience" to the list of priority areas for the program. However, it does not include the dedicated funding that NOC requested to fully support this work.

Local food system investments.

The bill includes language from the Local Farmers Feeding Our Communities Act, which would authorize a program building on the successful Local Food Purchase Assistance initiative. The program aims to strengthen local markets for small and mid-sized farmers. However, it authorizes only discretionary funding, raising concerns about whether the program will ultimately receive the resources needed to succeed.

MAJOR GAPS REMAIN FOR ORGANIC

Flat funding for the National Organic Program.

No relief for rising certification costs.

Flat funding for organic research.

(NOC is also deeply concerned that the funding authorized by Congress for 2025 has not yet gone out.)

Missing investments in organic transition and market development.

USDA agencies that organic farmers rely on—including the National Organic Program, NRCS, and FSA—have experienced **significant staffing reductions** in the past year. The bill does not address these workforce challenges.