



2013 Special Order of Business A New Five-Year Farm Bill

Congress's failure to pass a new five-year farm bill before the end of 2012 has created significant economic hardship and uncertainty in production and investment planning for family farmers and ranchers.

Sixteen million agricultural workers, rural businesses and millions of food-insecure Americans whose life and livelihoods are dependent upon our nation's agricultural sector will also increasingly have their lives impaired without the security of a five-year farm bill.

Our country is recovering from one of the most significant droughts in history, with most of the counties across the nation being declared agricultural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at some point during 2012, and 55 percent of the nation's pasture and rangeland rated in poor to very poor condition.

We support a price support system that allows the economic viability of crops such as rice, cotton, peanuts, and grazed-out wheat, because these crops are not economically sustainable in the context of farm bill proposals.

We urge Congress to immediately pass, and the president sign, a comprehensive five-year farm bill in its entirety.

We are opposed to any further piecemeal extension of the current expired farm bill.