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NO NEW FARM BILL IN SIGHT!!

By Brian Kanke, Chairman, Zoo Pharma Dynamics

America's farmers have faced a year unlike any other, with a roller coaster of changing tariff and trade policies along with drastic cuts to federal funding and programs. These factors, along with the long-term effects of decades of agriculture policies that favor large-scale, industrial operations and corporations, are wreaking havoc on farmers and communities. Many advocates and policymakers have begun to warn that we are entering the next farm crisis, as farmers across the spectrum, from large commodity to smaller scale, diversified producers and ranchers struggle to make a living.

The last farm bill was passed in 2018 and expired in 2023. Though Congress keeps extending the 2018 farm bill, the lack of a new comprehensive slate of food and farm policies is contributing to farmers' uncertainty and economic challenges. Farmers depend on farm bill programs to compensate them for protecting soil and water, increase opportunity and access to farming and strengthen rural economies, among many other important functions.

Farm bill programs provide critical economic returns, supporting over 46,000 jobs nationwide and generating \$3.45 billion in added value annually, or about \$1.58 dollars generated per federal dollar invested. Without a farm bill, these programs face funding cuts and uncertainty, making it harder for producers to maintain their livelihoods and care for the land.

<https://www.farmaid.org/blog/what-are-americas-family-farmers-up-against-right-now/>

One might wonder why our politicians continue to neglect our number one national security issue. You can have all the military equipment you want, and it can be the biggest and best on the planet but if we have no food supply none of that will matter.

Farmers should be our number one national security right beside our military. I'm all for the best military on the planet and I'm also for never relying on another country for food. That is bad business and we haven't battled every conflict for the last 250 years to end

Did You Know?

The farm bill connects the food on our plates, the farmers and ranchers who produce that food, and the natural resources – our soil, air and water – that make growing food possible.



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up at the mercy of some other country. Our elected politicians need to quit taking farmers and our food supply for granted. There should be no reason for anyone in the United States to be hungry and starving. I am all for helping other countries with food but not at the cost of our own food supply or sending our tax dollars to other countries when we have plenty here at home that need help. I've always believed in making sure your house is in order before telling or helping someone to run their house. Our house the United States is not in order, and we need to fix things here first. And its starts with our Farmers!! Our farmers need to be given the opportunity to produce healthy food and have the ability to make a profit from a well-run business. Farmers have to do their part in being fiscally responsible but as it is right now, they are severely handicapped before plowing and planting the first crop or producing the next herd of livestock.

We as citizens of the United States need to tell our politicians to get a fair farm bill done for our farmers and us. Our national security is at risk if we can't get our food supply fixed. We have some of the most intelligent people on the planet and they need to get this fixed fast. The majority of the United States citizens do not live in a financially wealthy bubble. Let's get to work and get our farmers on path to global dominance of the food supply. If we do, we shall remain the World's Superpower.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!