
Policy Recommendations to Balance the U.S. Agricultural Trade Deficit with Higher-Value Food Crops

A new report commissioned by our 501(c)(3) partner Farm Action reveals how the food security of the United States has become increasingly reliant on other nations. **The U.S. now runs an agricultural trade deficit following decades of declining domestic production of produce, legumes, and whole grains.**

The federal government has driven this shift through farm programs that heavily subsidize lower-value feed grains. Because of failed policy, **the United States no longer feeds the world; in fact, we no longer feed ourselves.**

Farm Action Fund is fighting to reverse this trend and balance the agricultural trade deficit by urging Congress to **include the following policy provisions in the 2023 Farm Bill.**

Improve Crop Insurance and Risk Management

Whole Farm Revenue Protection Improvement Act S.2598

This legislation would make critical improvements to the Whole Farm Revenue Protection program, expanding access to this important risk management tool to fruit and vegetable growers.

Insuring Fairness for Family Farmers Act S.2421 | H.R.4804

This legislation would restructure how crop insurance agents are compensated to encourage them to prioritize underserved producers, new and beginning producers, farmers with smaller operations, diversified producers, and others who currently struggle to access risk management tools.

The Assisting Family Farmers through Insurance Reform Measures Act

Last introduced in the 115th Congress as S.1025 | H.R.2332

Pending introduction in the 118th Congress

This legislation would redirect crop insurance program funding from some of the most profitable farming operations and off-shore insurance companies to reduce waste and expand access for other producers.

Expand Access to Markets

Local Farms and Food Act

S.1205 | H.R.2723

This legislation would expand the Local Agricultural Marketing Program and establish “turn-key” grants for the smallest farms, facilitating broader participation in this program uniquely suited to building market pathways for American farmers.

Farmers’ Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act

H.R.2378

This legislation would expand assistance for the establishment of farmers markets in areas that need them most, expand markets for fruit and vegetable farmers by increasing funding to programs that provide healthy food to vulnerable communities, and increase local food production by facilitating contracts between food banks and local farmers.

Opt for Health with SNAP, Close the Fruit and Vegetable Gap Act

S.2015 | H.R.4149

This legislation would massively scale up access to fruits and vegetables through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program by removing burdensome cost sharing requirements that restrict certain grantees from accessing GusNIP dollars. GusNIP improves nutritional outcomes for those who struggle to access fruits and vegetables and builds market pathways for farmers growing food to nourish their communities.

GusNIP Improvement Act of 2023

S.2577

This legislation would make critical investments to GusNIP, reduce burdensome cost sharing requirements that restrict smaller grantees from accessing GusNIP dollars, and establish a new path within GusNIP to support the growth of successful programs.