

# SUPPORT FARMERS PRODUCING NUTRITIOUS FOODS



Ensuring all Americans have access to nutritious, high-quality food starts with supporting the farmers who grow it. However, many farmers face economic challenges in shifting towards crops that support a healthier food system. Now is the time to reshape agricultural policy to prioritize and incentivize the production of fruits, vegetables, legumes, and other nutritious crops. In doing so, we can strengthen public health, reduce healthcare costs, and foster a system that aligns with the country's long-term wellness and economic goals.

## Support Legislative Action:

- Establish robust funding for an array of important programs increasing the availability of nutrient-dense foods for people and creating new markets for local farmers, see the **GusNIP Improvement Act**, the **Opt for Health with SNAP**, **Close the Fruit and Vegetable Gap Act**, and the **Local Farms and Food Act**
- Reform crop insurance policies to better support small and specialty crop farmers by restructuring agent compensation and incentivizing coverage for historically underserved producers, see the **Insuring Fairness for Family Farmers Act**
- Reform the Federal Crop Insurance Program by reducing costs, cap subsidies for wealthy farmers, increase transparency, and focus resources on small and mid-sized farms in need, ensuring a more equitable and cost-effective safety net, see the **Assisting Family Farmers through Insurance Reform Measures (AFFIRM) Act**
- Enhance land access, retention, and transition while improving access to capital and markets for underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest owners through expanded funding, direct assistance, and innovative land access programs, see the **Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act**
- Improve the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) by reducing payment caps, reallocating funds towards conservation practices with greater environmental benefits, and empowering states to prioritize funding, ensuring broader access for farmers while eliminating wasteful spending, see the **EQIP Improvement Act**
- Invest in voluntary farm conservation practices, reforestation, and wetlands restoration to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance agricultural resilience, and create jobs in rural communities, see the **Climate Stewardship Act**
- Offer farmers who plant cover crops a \$5 per-acre crop insurance discount, aiming to improve soil health, reduce environmental risks, and mitigate climate-related crop failures, see the **COVER Act**







## Urge Administrative Action

- Expand crop insurance options to support more diversified and regenerative operations that feed their communities, not just those that grow commodity crops used for corporate livestock feed and highly processed food
- Direct the Farm Service Agency to set aside 10% of annual profits for regional lending programs that support sustainable and regenerative agriculture
- Direct the Farm Service Agency to raise Microloan limits to \$100,000, increase direct loan limits to the same level as Guaranteed loans, set the maximum level of collateral at 110% of the loan amount, eliminate the three-year experience requirement for loans, allow producers to pre-qualify for loans, and increase loan term lengths
- Ensure fair credit service access for all farmers by establishing strict conflict of interest and ethics policies with penalties; authorizing interest rate reductions for each category of underserved producers; and ensuring language and technical assistance access
- Strengthen transparency and accountability with robust data collection and publication by improving data collection requirements to provide data on race, gender, and ethnicity by county and state



## Champion New Legislation:

- Shift government support in the next farm bill from lower-value commodity crops like corn and soybeans toward vegetables, fruits, nuts, legumes, mushrooms, and cereal grains, allowing farmers more choices to profitably grow food for their communities
- Increase appropriations for the Local Agricultural Marketing Program (LAMP) and the GusNIP program to provide market opportunities for local and regional farmers to feed their communities healthy foods
- Set commonsense payment limits on farm support programs so that the largest, wealthiest farms are no longer receiving the bulk of taxpayer support