



Farm Bill Fact Sheet

LAND RETENTION

Overview of the Fair Access for Farmers and Ranchers Act of 2018:

- Provides a farm number and program eligibility to farm owners and operators farming on heirs property.
- Identifies similar alternate forms of documentation in each state as evidence of control of the land, including self-certification.
- Provides authority to establish a loan program through qualified intermediaries to work with heirs to allow owners to resolve heirs' property ownership on farmland that has multiple owners.
- Provides authority to the Secretary to collect data and perform analysis on trends in farmland ownership and operation, transitions of farms and ranchers to new generation of owners and operators, and also to help understand the impact of unresolved land tenure issue on the ability of producers to operate farms and pass them on to new generations of owners.

MEDIATION

Expands State Agricultural Mediation Grants to support mediation services related to farm transition

The Federation is the USDA certified agricultural mediation provider in Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana. The Farm Bill expands the services of ag mediation program. The ag mediation programs will now be authorized to work on lease issues, family farm transitions, farmer/neighbor conflicts, organic certification issues, and other issues designated by either the USDA Secretary of Agriculture or the state's Secretary of Agriculture. In addition, we can provide credit counseling.

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Creates the **Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP)** and provides the program with \$50 million per year in mandatory, permanent funds.
- LAMP combines the **Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP)** and **Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG)** program together to provide baseline funding for the core priorities of each. LAMP also includes a new regional public private partnership provision that uses federal resources to leverage private investment and encourage "foodshed" level approaches to developing regional food economies.

OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Adopts the Senate's provision to include and provide permanent mandatory funding for the **Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (FOTO)** program. FOTO combines two of USDA's flagship training

and technical assistance programs for underserved producers – the **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program** (BFRDP) and the **Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program** (aka “Section 2501”).

- Provides \$435 million in mandatory funding for FOTO over the next ten years, and establishes permanent baseline to ensure that grants continue into the future. Initial funding starts at \$30 million in fiscal year (FY) 2019 and 2020, which will be split evenly between BFRDP and Section 2501. Funding increases to \$50 million by FY 2023. Overall, this funding structure will result in a slight increase in funding for 2501 grants and a slight decrease in funding for BFRDP grants over the next few years. However, by 2023, both programs will be funded at \$25 million per year.

CONSERVATION

- Ensures that all beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers enrolling in the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** (EQIP) have the option to receive 50 percent of their cost-share payment up front.

CREDIT

- Raises the loan limit on **Direct Farm Ownership Loans** to \$600,000 to better reflect the rising cost of farmland across the country. The bill also raises **Direct Operating Loans** (DOL) to \$400,000 and guaranteed loans to \$1.75 million.
- Provides critical improvements in USDA direct lending credit policy by including equitable relief servicing options in order to protect producers against errors or mistakes made within the USDA direct lending program.
- Increased public reporting on lending trends for beginning and SD farmers, which will be important to ensure that loan funding remains available for these communities.

EDUCATION – HBCU's

- \$80 million in new funding to land-grant HBCUs for student scholarships -- approximately 2 million each year per school. (Includes \$40 million in discretionary authorization and \$40 million in mandatory funding).
- \$10 million a year to support three new HBCU Centers of Excellence to address agricultural workforce development, nutrition and food security, economic development and emerging technologies. The location will be determined by a competitive grant process through the USDA.
- \$15 million for HBCU cooperative extension and research
- **The Farm Bill allows 1890s to carry over 100% of unused funds.** Previously, HBCUs could only carry over 20 percent of their extension funding if it wasn't used in a calendar year. This funding helps to address public needs.
- **Transparency Requirement:** States are required to report to Congress how much funding they're providing both their 1890 land grants and their 1862 land grants.