Discussion Draft Review

California Farm Bureau represents the largest agricultural organization in the state with more than 26,000 members and nearly 400 covered commodities. Those commodities contribute over $50 billion in revenue annually for California, making it the top-producing agricultural state in the country. Given the size and scope of agriculture in our state, our members understand the critical importance of the Farm Bill and what it means for our industry.

The many U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs reauthorized in this legislation are what help ensure farming, ranching, and forestry remain viable industries not just in California, but around the country. The following is a listing of the proposals within the House discussion draft that could have the most significant impacts on California producers as well as align with California Farm Bureau policy. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list and is only representative of the initial bill as written, prior to the amendment process.

Title	Program	Summary	CAFB Position
I	Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)	Institutes biennial cost surveys for DMC to ensure make allowances reflect manufacturing costs. Increases the cap on Tier I coverage and offers a 25% discount on premiums for those enrolled through the length of the Farm Bill.	Support
I	Assistance in the Form of Block Grants	In the case additional funds made available after the date of the enactment of this section for covered losses, the Secretary may make assistance for such losses available in the form of block grants.	Oppose. CAFB supports continuing distributions via ERP as well as adequately funding and making improvements to that program.
I	Limitation on Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Authority	CCC is authorized to use its general powers only to carry out operations as Congress has specifically authorized or provided for. Effectively eliminates discretionary authority.	Oppose. While understanding the possible need for some guardrails, flexibility in spending through CCC has been a large benefit for many producers.
I	Tree Assistance Program (TAP)	Adds eligibility for biennial crops. Includes “pests” to natural disaster definition. Mortality threshold lowered from 15% to “normal mortality.” Other changes include increased reimbursement rates for pruning and removals,	Support

		new timing requirements for replants, and added flexibility on varietal use for replants.	
I	Adjusted Gross Income	Payment limitations shall not apply to a person or legal entity during a crop, fiscal, or program year, as appropriate, if greater than or equal to 75% of the average adjusted gross income of the person or legal entity de- rives from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities. This provision is key to California farmers and ranchers having adequate access to Farm Bill disaster and conservation programs.	Support
II	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Most highly utilized conservation program by California producers. Several pricing and requirement changes, including adding "state determined" to high priority practices. Adds practices that increase carbon sequestration or reduce GHG emissions. Authorizes increased payment amounts up to 90% of costs for adoption of precision ag practices or acquiring precision ag technologies.	Support
II	Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Adds new drought/flood language as a program purpose. Adds streamlining language and language requiring timely payments no more than 30 days following payment request by an eligible partner.	Support
II	Feral Swine Eradication & Control Program	Directs the Secretary to establish a feral swine eradication and control program. May additionally provide financial assistance to producers for control measures and damage restoration.	Support
III	Market Access Program (MAP) + Foreign Market Development Program (FMD)	Doubles annual funding for MAP/FMD up to $400 million.	Support
III	Report on Competitiveness of Specialty Crops	The Secretary, in consultation with the US Trade Representative, shall submit biannual	Support

		reports to Congress detailing the competitiveness of the specialty crop sector.	
IV	Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)	Increases funding up to $150 million through the length of the Farm Bill.	Support
VI	ReConnect Rural Broadband Program	Significant number of changes that envelopes previous ReConnect Program into the Farm Bill for reauthorization. Raises minimum eligibility speeds and grants Secretarial authority to adjust as necessary.	Support
VI	Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program	Reauthorizes the program at $82 million per year through 2029.	Support
VII	Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)	Increases mandatory funding to $175 million per year.	Support
VII	Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)	At least $25 million in funds reserved for Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program.	Support
VII	Specialty Crop Mechanization	Takes $20 million from SCRI to help fund a new Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research and Extension Program.	Support
VIII	National Forest System Management	Increases project size from 3,000 acres to 10,000 for: Collaborative Restoration, Wildfire Resilience, and Fuel Breaks in Forests and Other Wildland Vegetation Projects.	
VIII	Utilizing Grazing for Wildfire Risk Reduction	Directs the Secretary to develop a strategy to utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction strategy on Federal lands.	Support
VIII	Stewardship End Result Contracting	Adds language stating projects may include retaining and expanding existing forest products infrastructure. Extends the maximum contract length from 10 to 20 years.	Support
VIII	Reforestation, Nursery & Seed Orchard Support	Directs the Secretary to partner, promote information sharing, provide financial and technical assistance, & collaborate with other agencies and entities. Requires Secretary to	Support

		establish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries or seed orchards.	
VIII	National Forest System Management	Requires Secretary to develop a Categorical Exclusion for high priority hazard trees not later than one year after enactment. Projects capped at 3,000 acres. Increases project size to 10,000 acres for insect and disease, wildfire resilience, and fuel breaks.	Support
VIII	Forest Management Activities	Includes "Cottonwood fix", expansion of Good Neighbor Authority to Tribes and counties. Reduces barriers to the removal of trees around electrical lines. Authorizes additional cooperative agreements and contracts for prescribed fire. Directs the Secretary to develop a strategy to utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction strategy on Federal lands.	Support
VIII	Timber Innovation	Reauthorizes and modernizes the Wood Innovation Grant program. Reduces the non-federal match and authorizes grants for construction of new facilities that advance the purposes of the program and for hauling hazardous fuels reduction materials that can utilize it. This will assist California with the high volume of low value, woody material.	Support
VIII	Save Our Sequoias	Establishes a comprehensive approach to addressing the extreme threat to giant sequoia tree species. Provides the Secretary with additional emergency authorities.	Support
X	Specialty Crop Block Grant Program	Increases mandatory funding level up from $85 million to $100 million and establishes a stakeholder consultation process.	Support
X	Plant Pest & Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program	Increases the funding up to $90 million per year.	Support

XI	Specialty Crop Advisory Committee	Establishes a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee appointed by the USDA Secretary. The chair will sit on the FCIC Board and can help direct and prioritize research, development, and education efforts for specialty crops and specialty crop programs.	Support
XI	Crop Insurance	Under "High Priority Research and Extension Initiatives," permits grants for research into the impacts of wildfire exposure on specialty crops and develop risk assessment tools and/or other mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate exposure.	Support
XI	Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP)	Increases maximum coverage to 90% and requires mandated annual reviews on limitations to insurable revenue to ensure limitations are adequate enough to cover financial risks associated with high-value ag commodities.	Support
XII	Agricultural Labor Survey	Secretary will be required to provide a report on the quality of the Agriculture Labor Survey and the impacts of the survey on ag employers. Also requires an analysis of the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) to determine its impact on the H-2 program and domestic workers.	Support
XII	National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program	Clarifies that animal disease traceability is an eligible activity and maintains funding at $70 million per year.	Support
XII	Secure Rural Schools Program	Reauthorizes the program.	Support