



FARM BILL BOOT CAMP

A look back and a look forward



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TODAY'S AGENDA



- 🔄 Farm bill 101
- 🔄 Organic in the farm bill
- 🔄 Process and timeline
- 🔄 Dynamics that could shape the 2023 farm bill
- 🔄 OTA's policy process and preview of priorities
- 🔄 Advocacy



FARM BILL 101

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FARM BILL 101



What is the farm bill and why does it matter?

- 🔄 The farm bill is an omnibus package of legislation that is renewed every 5 years
- 🔄 It includes food assistance programs, supports commodity crops, and creates incentives for conservation
- 🔄 The farm bill greatly impacts how, what, and where crops are grown. It also has a direct effect on the accessibility and price of food

FARM BILL 101



History of farm bills

- 🔄 **1933:** First farm bill signed into law, was a reaction to the Dust Bowl to stabilize agriculture and incentivize conservation
- 🔄 **1970's:** Nutrition assistance programs were added to farm bill (food stamps), part of the social assistance and welfare programs that the government created in the 60's
- 🔄 **1990's:** Freedom to Farm Act, direct payments to farmers were eliminated. Over the years they were replaced by more robust crop insurance subsidies and other commodity support programs
- 🔄 **2000's:** Local foods, specialty crops, and urban ag support have all been added to the farm bill reflecting the diversity of American agriculture

FARM BILL 101



Titles in the Farm Bill and Current Spending Share

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Commodities (7%) | 7. Research (0.2%) |
| 2. Conservation (7%) | 8. Forestry |
| 3. Trade | 9. Energy (0.1%) |
| 4. Nutrition (76%) | 10. Horticulture (0.2%) |
| 5. Credit | 11. Crop Insurance (9%) |
| 6. Development | 12. Miscellaneous |



QUESTIONS?

ORGANIC IN THE FARM BILL



Title X: Horticulture

Covers specialty crops, organic, local foods, hemp, urban agriculture

Contains around **\$1 billion** in spending



Organic

- Any amendment and updates to the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA)
- Funding for Organic Certification Cost-Share Program
- Funding for the Organic Data Initiative (ODI) and NOP technology upgrades



Organic in other titles

- *Research*: Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)
- *Conservation*: EQIP Organic Initiative
- *Crop Insurance*: Organic price elections
- *Trade*: Export promotion

ORGANIC IN THE FARM BILL



History of Organic in the Farm Bill

1990

- 🔄 **Organic Foods Production Act** (OFPA) authorizes **national standards** for products marketed under the organic label

ORGANIC IN THE FARM BILL



History of Organic in the Farm Bill

2002

- 🔄 **Organic Research and Extension Initiative** (OREI) is established and funded at **\$3 million per year**
- 🔄 **Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives** (ODI) is established, ensuring that USDA is segregating and collecting data on organic production
- 🔄 **Organic Certification Cost-Share Program** (OCCSP) is established and funded at **\$5 million** (\$1 mill. per year) to assist producers and handlers in obtaining organic certification, allowing them to receive up to \$500 to assist in certification fees

ORGANIC IN THE FARM BILL



History of Organic in the Farm Bill

2008

- 🔄 OREI funding expanded to **\$20 million** per year
- 🔄 Cost-Share funding expanded to **\$22 million** and authorizes up to \$750 per certificate holder to assist in certification fees
- 🔄 ODI receives **\$5 million** in funding.
- 🔄 The **National Organic Program** (NOP) is authorized to receive up to **\$11 million** in annual funding.

ORGANIC IN THE FARM BILL



History of Organic in the Farm Bill

2008

- 🔄 **CONSERVATION:** Reduces barriers for organic and transitioning farmers under the **Conservation Reserve Program** (CRP), **Conservation Stewardship Program** (CSP), and the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program Organic Initiative** (EQIP OI) is established
- 🔄 **TRADE:** Organic commodities are authorized to receive **Market Access Program** (MAP) funding to promote U.S. organic products overseas
- 🔄 **CROP INSURANCE:** Reduces barriers, defines and recognizes organic under the crop insurance program, requires USDA to establish and implement organic price elections

ORGANIC IN THE FARM BILL



History of Organic in the Farm Bill

2014

- 🔄 OREI maintains funding at **\$20 million** per year
- 🔄 OCCSP funding more than doubles to over **\$40 million**
- 🔄 ODI maintains funding at **\$5 million**
- 🔄 NOP receives **\$5 million** to upgrade and modernize technology systems, creating the **Organic Integrity Database** (OID), a comprehensive public online database that catalogs all organic certificate holders
- 🔄 The NOP is authorized to receive up to **\$15 million** in annual funding

ORGANIC IN THE FARM BILL



History of Organic in the Farm Bill

2014

- 🔄 **Organic Commodity Promotion Order** aka “check-off program” authorized
- 🔄 **INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT:** Increases **recordkeeping requirements** for all certified organic operations and certifying agents. Increases USDA’s authority to conduct **investigations** and establishes more **stringent penalties for violations** of the organic standards.
- 🔄 Sets a deadline for USDA to implement price elections for all organic crops

ORGANIC IN THE FARM BILL



History of Organic in the Farm Bill

2018

- 🔄 The NOP is authorized to receive up to **\$24 million** in annual funding
- 🔄 **OREI receives permanent baseline funding** more than doubling to **\$50 million** per year
- 🔄 ODI maintains funding of **\$5 million**
- 🔄 The NOP receives **\$5 million** in funding for technology upgrades to create electronic organic **import certificates** to deter fraud
- 🔄 OCCSP maintains funding at **\$40 million**
- 🔄 Raises the payment limit for projects funded under EQIP OI from \$80k to **\$140k**

ORGANIC IN THE FARM BILL



History of Organic in the Farm Bill

2018

- 🔄 The **Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act** is included
- 🔄 Increases authority for USDA to conduct **global oversight** and enforcement actions to **combat fraud in organic**
- 🔄 Requires USDA to issue new regulations closing loopholes for certain handlers that are exempt from certification including brokers and shippers
- 🔄 Implementation of OFCPA is coming via the **Strengthening Organic Enforcement** final rule



QUESTIONS?



THE 2023 FARM BILL

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2023 FARM BILL



Congressional Reauthorization Process & Timeline

2022

- 🔄 Title by title **hearings** in the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to reexamine and take stakeholder feedback on the next farm bill
- 🔄 **Field hearings and roundtables** hosted by Agriculture Committee Members across the U.S. to get on the ground input from farmers and stakeholders
- 🔄 Introduction of **marker bills** (standalone bills) that are intended for inclusion in the final farm bill

2023 FARM BILL



Congressional Reauthorization Process & Timeline

2023

- 🔄 House and Senate draft their own versions of the farm bill
- 🔄 Committee markup
- 🔄 Passage by each chamber
- 🔄 Conference committee negotiations
- 🔄 President signs into law
- 🔄 **Deadline for passage: September-December 2023**

2023 FARM BILL



Title X Hearing

2023

- 🔄 Happening tomorrow at 10am at the House Agriculture Committee!
- 🔄 Will examine organic, local foods, specialty crop and urban ag programs
- 🔄 Two Panels: Government and Stakeholder Witnesses
- 🔄 USDA AMS Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt testifying
- 🔄 OTA's CEO/Executive Director Laura Batcha is testifying on behalf of organic
- 🔄 Hearing will be livestreamed at agriculture.house.gov

2023 FARM BILL



What will be different about the 2023 farm bill?

2023

- 🔄 Changes in Agriculture Committee leadership
- 🔄 Redistricting
- 🔄 Mid-term elections in November 2022 could shakeup political control of either, or both, the House and the Senate
- 🔄 Committee membership shakeup at beginning of 2023 (the 118th Congress)
- 🔄 Budget constraints



QUESTIONS?



ORGANIC IN THE NEXT FARM BILL

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OTA POLICY SETTING PROCESS



OTA Farmer's Advisory Council (FAC)

- 🔄 What is FAC and their unique role in developing and informing OTA policy?
- 🔄 **FAC Farm Bill Working Sessions**
 - Organic transition
 - Crop insurance and risk management
 - Conservation
 - Certification cost-share
 - Market development, processing infrastructure and supply chain challenges
- 🔄 The outcomes of the working sessions will inform the base of OTA's farm bill platform ensuring that OTA's policy priorities are driven by organic farmers

OTA POLICY SETTING PROCESS



Future of Organic Workshops

- 🔄 OTA partnered with the ASU's Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems and the Organic Farmers Association to host a series of four workshops
- 🔄 Nearly **300 people** participated including certifiers and inspectors, farmers, large consumer brands, retailers, non-profits, and advocacy organizations
- 🔄 **Topics covered included:**
 - Structure of the public-private partnership
 - Continuous improvement
 - Certification, inspection, enforcement, and accreditation
 - The future of marketing claims and their relationship to organic
- 🔄 Culmination of the workshops will result in a report published later this Spring

OTA POLICY SETTING PROCESS



Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act (CIAO)

OTA's top priority in the next farm bill, CIAO will make updates to the OFPA to:

- 🔄 Restructure the public-private partnership
- 🔄 Invest in enforcement and oversight
- 🔄 Prioritize continuous improvement



QUESTIONS?



ADVOCACY

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CONGRESSIONAL CHAMPIONS: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RODNEY DAVIS
R-IL13



JIMMY PANETTA
D-CA20



CHELLIE PINGREE
D-ME01



GLENN T. THOMPSON
R-PA15



CONGRESSIONAL CHAMPIONS: U.S. SENATE



SHERROD BROWN
D-OH



SUSAN COLLINS
R-ME



JEFF MERKLEY
D-OR



JON TESTER
D-MT

ADVOCACY



Timeline

- 🔄 **Spring**
 - Organic Week Advocacy Day, March 30, 2022
- 🔄 **Summer**
 - OTA release of full farm bill policy platform
 - District visits
 - Development of CIAO 2.0 marker bill
- 🔄 **Call to Action**
 - Get involved by contacting OTA's Government Affairs Team (mdebates@ota.com)

ADVOCACY



The Role of Organic PAC

- 🔄 The only political action committee devoted to advancing organic
- 🔄 Ensures that our elected leaders make organic food, fiber and farming a priority and an important part of our nation's agriculture policy
- 🔄 Helps us cultivate champions on the hill and elect candidates who understand and support our industry on both sides of the aisle

ADVOCACY



Organic PAC Event

- 🔄 Join us from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** at Cantina Bambina on the Wharf
 - *Games*
 - *Open bar and snacks*
 - *Fire pit*
- 🔄 Honoring Representative Peter DeFazio as **Organic Champion of the Year**
- 🔄 Visit the Organic PAC table in the Resource Room to sign up!



QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!