

Farm Bill 2026

Overview

The Farm Bill ensures we have a safe and affordable food supply that enhances the health of the nation. Historically, the Farm Bill is what ensures that people have access to nutrition security programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Community Food Projects, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), and the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). Through these programs and investments in agricultural research, commodity support for farmers, and policies that promote healthy eating, the Farm Bill strengthens access to nutritious food and protects the health and well-being of the nation.

About Us

Representing more than 112,000 credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. The Academy is committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education, and advocacy.

The Academy's Farm Bill Priorities

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (the Academy) is advocating for the 119th U.S. Congress to pass a Farm Bill that maintains the integrity of nutrition assistance programs, ensures vital funding for nutrition education and nutrition research, and improves marketplace, demand, and equitable access to nourishing foods.

The Academy's goals with the Farm Bill focus on strengthening and expanding federal nutrition programs and interventions that improve nutrition security and promote health equity. The Academy also supports providing adequate funding in workforce development programs and a strong science portfolio that informs development and enhancement of nutrition program content as well as high-quality, systematic monitoring and evaluation to provide guidance for structuring and strengthening consumer education implementation and delivery systems. Additionally, the Academy aims to support producers and retailers of all sizes, with an emphasis on those from underrepresented groups to meet current and future demand for healthful and diverse foods.

The Academy has developed the following recommendations to support these goals:

Recommendation #1: Support nutrition security and health equity; improve access to healthful and culturally appropriate foods and resources to prepare them.

The Academy advocates for:

Nutrition Education for the Public

- Reinstating funds for a national nutrition education program, tailored for local community needs to promote long-term health.
- Funding for a training and technical assistance resource center to provide training and evidence-based support for federal nutrition education programs.
- Doubling the investment in GusNIP and eliminating the mandatory state match.
- Provide sufficient funding for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).
- Increase community and stakeholder involvement in nutrition education interventions.

Federal Nutrition Programs

- Increasing access to SNAP by modernizing benefit delivery, eliminating online grocery delivery fees, raising older adult participation, and bringing parity to U.S. territories.
- Ensuring adequate SNAP benefit and encourage technology innovations to make healthful foods that align with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* more affordable.
- Update SNAP retailer standards and expanding retailer types to increase access and availability to healthful foods.
- Lower barriers to SNAP participation for military members/families, college students, immigrants, and people with disabilities.
- Authorize TEFAP with at least \$500M in mandatory annual funding.
- Increase funding for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable and the Farm to School Programs.
- Reauthorize and increase funds for CSFP.
- Enable Tribal governments to administer all federal nutrition programs and expand Native-grown procurement options.
- Making it possible for eligible people to access FDPIR and SNAP in the same month.

Recommendation #2: Create a diverse workforce and ensure sound science and program evaluation for future evidence-based decision making that is grounded in promoting health equity.

The Academy advocates for:

- Directing federal funding for nutrition monitoring to identify vulnerable populations.
- Increasing Agricultural and Food Research Initiative funding for a diverse agriculture and nutrition workforce, and research connecting nutrition, agriculture, and climate change.
- Increasing Human Nutrition Research Centers funding and strengthening nutrition programming and research linkages through the Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research.
- Maintaining and increasing funds for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research and the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative.
- Funding evaluation and program expertise to assess health outcomes related to nutrition status.

Recommendation #3: Support initiatives that foster a healthful and sustainable food system.

The Academy advocates for:

- Funding and supporting initiatives that expand availability of regionally grown food; incentivizing healthful food; evaluating program effectiveness; improving diet quality, food security, and fiscal responsibility.
- Funding for solutions to increase access to healthful food in underserved areas, including the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.
- Funding to support next-generation farmers from historically marginalized communities with land access, skills, and incentives to grow healthy foods to promote health equity.
- Funding for conservation, subsidy, and insurance programs that safeguard soil, water, air, habitat, and biodiversity and promote sustainability, carbon emission reduction, and nutrition quality.
- Increasing funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grants to support food safety and increase dietary diversity.
- Supporting supply chain innovation for regional agriculture and food security.

For more information from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, please contact govaffairs@eatright.org.