



TEAM: FOOD & AGRICULTURE

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SUBJECT: A RESILIENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEM- FARM BILL 2026

REQUESTED ACTION:

- Advocate for regional priorities as Congress deliberates H.R. 7567 Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 (the 2026 Farm Bill).
- Support H.R. 6088/S. 3281 – Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act of 2025, to restore SNAP funding and address the cost shift to states.
- Support the bi-partisan ([H.R. 4782](#)) Local Farmers Feeding our Communities Act (LFFC) of 2025. The Act creates a pathway for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enter into cooperative agreements with states to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed local food from small, mid-sized, beginning, or veteran fishers, farmers, and ranchers to distribute to organizations.
- Support S. 3528 PROTEIN (Producing Real Opportunities for Technology and Entrepreneurs Investing in Nutrition Act), which would direct more than \$500 million in federal support over the next five years toward research and development of protein innovation, supporting domestic manufacturing capacity.

HOW THIS SUPPORTS BUSINESSES:

Congress is working on the 2026 Farm Bill to address key components not covered in 2025 through H.R. 1. Family farmers and ranchers are facing trade and supply chain disruptions, higher costs, weather extremes, and fluctuating markets for products. The deep nutrition program funding cuts (\$187 billion over the next decade), especially to the nation's core nutrition assistance program - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and administrative changes enacted through H.R. 1 (including huge



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cost-shift to states and SNAP program eligibility requirements), are impacting farmers, producers and grocers for whom SNAP and USDA's other food purchasing programs are a major source of revenue, especially at times of market uncertainty. These cuts and administrative changes also are generating major disruption for agencies administering these critical programs, along with the food and nutrition safety network, and the recipients themselves. Food security is national security. Priorities include restored funding for nutrition and health programs and streamlining reforms that enable more efficient access to programs and their administration, along with clarity on implementing new requirements.

HOW THIS SUPPORTS RESIDENTS OF OUR REGION:

The Capital Region is a global leader in high value, high quality agricultural crops, products, and technologies. Located in the heart of the country's most productive agricultural region, it is home to the nation's number one University in agriculture – UC Davis - and a vibrant food and agriculture industry. The region's working landscapes including food and agriculture generated more than 89,000 jobs and \$24 billion in sales in 2024 and is a critical driver of the region's economic competitiveness.¹

Despite great agricultural abundance, the region faces persistent levels of food insecurity, lack of access to healthy affordable foods, and increasing costs. Farmers face market volatility, higher costs, labor shortages and supply chain disruptions. These challenges impact our communities, businesses and the emergency food system, especially in our rural areas, which must fill the gap at great cost.

Farm Bill reauthorization will address the issues not covered by H.R. 1 and other legislation, and to adjust for the unintended impacts of H.R. 1. A dual approach to support both farmers and families through nutrition programs will strengthen the health of our communities and the resilience of our farm economy. Jurisdictions, nonprofit partners including the emergency food system, institutions including schools and hospitals, farmer and food producers, and grocery stores are collaborating to prepare for these unprecedented impacts. Sacramento County alone projects that 57,000 residents may lose SNAP benefits. Every loss of benefits results in an additional demand for food by a factor of nine on the emergency food systems, and lost revenues for farmers and stores. Forcing states to absorb a share of SNAP benefit administrative costs for the first time will constrain the state's ability to backfill at the local level,



shifting additional costs down to counties, which are facing severe budget challenges. These shifts mean a reduction in benefits for a significant part of county caseloads. For example, Yolo County estimates that it could result in a 1/3 reduction of its caseload, with approximately 8,400 residents losing benefits, and increasing demands on the emergency food system.

A strong farm safety net and robust risk management tools are critical for protecting family farmers and ranchers from market and weather volatility. Other Farm Bill priorities include funding for local food purchase assistance programs; support for new farmers, expanded conservation, and trade; and food system infrastructure including food hubs, food and meat processing facilities, school central kitchens, and broadband infrastructure for precision agriculture and rural connectivity.

APPENDIX:

1. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, "California's Working Landscapes: Evolving Contributions to National, State, and Regional Economies," Alec Dompka, Alexandra E. Hill and Aaron Wilcher, November 2025, p. 60.