



Farm Bill

NGFA Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2024

House Farm Bill

Timing

- House Ag Committee marked up and passed its version of Farm Bill on May 23, 2024.

NGFA Priorities in the House Bill

- CRP reform that ties payment rates to land quality; the CRP cap is unchanged
- Increased funding for MAP and FMD
- Small increases in loan rates that we don't believe will distort the market
- Decoupled commodity title with a limited base acre update

Road Ahead

- Democrats have panned the Farm Bill for inaccurately forecasting the budget savings from limiting the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) spending authority. CBO projects a savings of \$8 billion. House Republicans project \$50 billion.
- Democrats have also criticized the House proposal of crossing several "red lines" on nutrition and removing restrictions on use of Inflation Reduction Act funding.

Senate Farm Bill

Majority

- Includes 2 million additional CRP acres for grasslands (raises overall cap proportionately)
- No increased funding for MAP and FMD.
- Summary suggests increases in loan rates, but details are uncertain
- Decoupled commodity title with a base acre update for very few farmers
- Funding unclear

Minority

- Contains a 15 percent increase in reference prices, which we do not believe will have detrimental effects on the market
- Holds the CRP cap to 27 million acres
- Doubles MAP and FMD funding
- Contains the Innovative FEED Act language
- Funding similar to House Bill

Road Ahead: No indication of additional legislative activity. Republicans have panned the Senate Majority framework for likely being over budget, but until legislative language and CBO scores are released, no one can say for certain.



FDA Reconditioning

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FDA Reconditioning

- Over the last several months grain export facilities in the New Orleans area have experienced significant delays regarding reconditioning plans after the FGIS has determined that the grain, e.g., corn, wheat or soybean needs reconditioning due to aflatoxin or is a Distinct Low Quality due animal excreta, e.g., deer droppings. NGFA has been working with FDA and FGIS to identify ways to streamline the approval process and for the FDA to implement pre-approved reconditioning plans.

FDA Reconditioning

- FDA is working with the FGIS to revise the Directive to implement the MOU and are also streamlining the Standard Operating Procedure document for staff to use when a reconditioning request is submitted by a grain handling facility to expedite the approval process. They did not give a timeline when the revisions would be completed. NGFA will continue to work with FGIS and FDA to resolve the delays in the approval process.
- NGFA is continuing to work with Capitol Hill staff in order to develop *Questions for the Record* on the issue, in order to get an official response from the agency on their policy as well as potential report language for the FDA's appropriations bill. The Senate version of the Ag Appropriations bill contains language directing USDA and FDA to update their MOU on reconditioning grain in consultation with the industry.



NASS Reports

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NASS County Estimate Reports

Appropriations Status

- House Ag Appropriations has language directing NASS to reinstate reports, and restrictions on discretionary spending
- Senate Ag Appropriations has increased funding, plus language directing NASS to reinstate reports
- In order for reports to be reinstated, the FY25 Ag-FDA appropriations bill must be passed by both chambers and signed into law.



WRDA

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Timing

- House passed WRDA July 22
- Senate passed WRDA August 2

NGFA WRDA Priorities

- The seven IJIA inland waterways projects will continue to be 100% federally-funded.
- No policy or funding concerning removal of the Lower Snake River Dams.

Outlook

- Despite ample bipartisan support, the House bill does not have Section 109, which commits federal funding for IJIA, and permanently sets the cost share for waterways projects to 75%(federal)/25%(industry).
- NGFA is working to urge conferees to include Section 109 in the final package.