



Missouri Coalition for the Environment
EFFECTIVE CITIZEN ACTION SINCE 1969

FARMERS MARKET & FOOD BANK LOCAL REVITALIZATION ACT (H.R. 2378)

Initial sponsor: Rep. Kaptur

Farmers Market & Food Bank Local Revitalization Act...

- **seeks to invest in local and regional agriculture** in order to strengthen the relationship among local farmers and local consumers to support public health and a flourishing economy.
- **proposes increased funding for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)** which will provide low-income seniors with access to locally grown food and increase benefits for the Women, Infants, and Children Farmers Market Nutrition Program (WIC FMNP).
- **offers resources for farmers markets** with new infrastructure goals and a funding program. The bill will also create a new USDA program for food banks to find produce from local farmers.

**Call to
Action**

Co-Sponsor the Farmers and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act to help low income and marginalized communities access locally grown food through nutrition assistance programs at farmers markets and at food banks that would have resources to grow their own food!



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JUSTICE FOR BLACK FARMERS ACT (S. 96)

Initial sponsor: Sen. Cory Booker

The purpose of the Justice for Black Farmers Act is to address the history of discrimination against Black farmers and ranchers, to require reforms within the Department of Agriculture to prevent future discrimination, and for other purposes.

Justice for Black Farmers Act will...

- Protect current Black farmers from land loss.
- Restore land stolen from Black farmers.
- Creates farm and ranch training programs for disadvantaged communities.
- Assists all socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.
- Empowers HBCU's and advocates for Black farmers.
- Enacts system reforms to help all farmers and ranchers.

**Call to
Action**

Co-sponsor the Justice for Black Farmers Act to support a more equitable agricultural system that provides socially disadvantaged communities with the necessary resources they they need to succeed, and rights the decades-long wrongs by the USDA



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LOCAL FARMS & FOOD ACT (H.R 2723)

Initial sponsor: Rep. Pingree

Local Farms & Food Act will...

- Enhance fairness and availability of LAMP initiatives through the development of simplified applications, adjusting cost-share necessities for smaller cultivators, and guaranteeing that funds are directed to overlooked communities,
- Address essential and underfunded necessities for local food system apparatus, value-chain management, and business technical help
- Broaden effective nutrition incentive schemes and guarantee that low-income households can easily access nutritious local foods. This can be achieved by preparing farmers' markets to effortlessly accept federal nutrition benefits, escalating funds for SFMNP, and minimizing obstacles for organizations wishing to partake in the GusNIP program.

**Call to
Action**

Co-Sponsor the Local Farms and Food Act to build an equitable, resilient, local food system, ensuring resources are provided to those who need it most!

Initial Sponsors: Sen. Thune and Rep. Pingree

Strengthening Local Processing Act will...

- Address the need for better livestock processing infrastructure at the local, regional, and state levels.
- Counter the dominance of corporate players in the meatpacking industry by enhancing the capacity of existing local livestock processing facilities
- Invest in training and workforce development programs to tackle both short-term and long-term staffing challenges in processing facilities, meeting the growing demand for livestock products.
- Support local and regional meat and poultry producers by encouraging states to run state inspection programs and participate in the Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program, which paves the way for new meat processing plants.

**Call to
Action**

Co-Sponsor the Strengthening Local Processing Act to ensure small-scale livestock producers have the resources they need to reach their local consumers with products.



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AGRICULTURE RESILIENCE ACT (H.R 1840 & S. 1016)

Initial sponsors: Rep. Pingree & Sen. Heinrich

Farms will continue to be hit with the following climate change disasters:

- Intensified droughts, floods and storms
- Stresses on crops, livestock and farm personnel from higher summer temperatures
- Disruption of seasonal development, flowering and fruiting in horticultural crops
- Shifting pest, weed, and disease life cycles and geographic ranges
- Disproportionate impacts on economically disadvantaged rural communities"

Source: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Agriculture and Climate Change: Policy Imperatives and Opportunities to Help Producers Meet the Challenge (2018) (citing Fourth National Climate Assessment), p. 1, https://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/NSAC-Climate-Change-Policy-Position_paper-112019_WEB.pdf

The Agriculture Resilience Act addresses climate changes throughout much of the USDA programming not only that which affects farmers, but elements that shape the larger food system, as well.

- (1) Agricultural Research
- (2) Soil Health
- (3) Farmland Preservation
- (4) Pasture-based Livestock Management
- (5) On-farm Renewable Energy
- (6) Food Waste Initiatives

**Call to
Action**

Co-Sponsor the Agriculture Resilience Act to help farmers handle the adverse climate crisis effects they are currently facing and safe-keep the future of farming!



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INCREASING LAND ACCESS, SECURITY, AND OPPORTUNITIES ACT (H.R.3955 & S.2340)

Initial Sponsors: Rep. Budzinski & Sen. Menendez

Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act will...

- Provide federal funding to address challenges of land access, retention, and transition for farmers and ranchers.
- Emphasizes the importance of secure land access for food security, economic growth, and climate resilience.
- Offer flexible support for community-led initiatives and provides critical resources for innovative solutions.
- Connect to the USDA Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program, which supports community-led projects across the country.

An investment in secure land access will have significant benefits for taxpayers, including increased food access, stronger supply chains, and rural economic growth.

**Call to
Action**

Co-sponsor Increasing Land Access, Security, and Opportunities Act to provide farmers and ranchers with the necessary resources for secure land access, equitable opportunities, and sustainable agriculture.



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WHOLE FARM REVENUE PROTECTION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT (S.2598)

Initial sponsor: Sen. Brown

Whole Farm Revenue Protection Program Improvement Act will...

- Close the coverage gap for small to mid-sized, beginning, specialty crop, and diversified producers.
- Authorize the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to conduct research and development to increase crop insurance participation for farmers marketing to local and regional markets.
- Authorize the FCIC to consider expanding the diversification premium discount to farmers who utilize a resource-conserving crop rotation.
- Applies the streamlined application process introduced in the Micro Farm pilot to all small and mid-sized farms defined by USDA.
- Raise the annual limit to historic gross revenue expansion and expands the diversification premium discount to encourage more diverse farmers to enroll in the program.
- Moderate the impact of disaster years by including Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payouts as historic gross revenue and compensates crop insurance agents appropriately for WFRP sales.
- Forbid any modifications of price and production expectations when filing a loss claim.

**Call to
Action**

Co-sponsor the WFRP Act to help close the coverage gap, increase participation, and support diverse producers in the agriculture industry through the Whole Farm Revenue Protection program.



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FAIR CREDIT FOR FARMERS ACT (S.2668)

Initial sponsor: Sen. Gillibrand

The Fair Credit for Farmers Act will . . .

- **Limit over-collateralization on farm loans and protect homes**
- **Eliminate the loan eligibility term limit**
- **Waive guarantees loan fees for historically underserved borrowers**
- **Restore farmer FSA eligibility after a debt write-down**
- **Ensure that farmers can refinance existing debt with FSA loans**
- **Enact a targeted two year, interest-free direct loan payment deferral**
- **Expand equitable relief when FSA erroneously denies a farmer's loan or program benefit**
- **Improve transparency and fairness in the National Appeals Division**



**Call to
Action**

Co-sponsor the Fair Credit for Farmers Act to improve access and accountability for USDA farm loan services – helping historically underserved farmers and ranchers receive equal treatment in FSA lending and appeals processes!