



NOFA-NY FARM BILL PRIORITIES

6.8.2018

PROGRAMS	\$\$ ASK	HOUSE BILL	SENATE BILL
<p><u>Organic Research</u></p> <p>NOFA-NY supports the bipartisan Organic Agriculture Research Act (H.R. 2436; S. 2404) which would authorize \$50 million in mandatory funding annually for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI).</p>	OREI: \$50 m.	OREI: \$30 m. and adds “soil health” as an additional priority for the program.	The bill gradually increases funding for OREI from current level of \$20 million annually to \$50 million annually by fiscal year 2022, and thereby achieves on-going baseline funding status that will make the program less vulnerable in future Farm Bills.
<p><u>Organic Import Oversight and Enforcement</u></p> <p>The bipartisan “Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act” (H.R. 3871) was introduced by NY Rep. John Faso to address fraud issues. Senate bill: S. 2927, “Organic Farmer and Consumer Protection Act of 2018” Senator Tammy Baldwin</p>	\$5 m	HR 3871 fully included and funded at \$5 m. In addition to the Senate bill, it would give USDA’s National Organic Program the authority to perform more frequent accreditation reviews of satellite offices of organic certifiers operating in countries with higher risk of fraudulent activity.	S. 2927 fully included and funded at \$5 m. In addition to the House bill, it includes more detailed language about circumstances that should trigger expedited investigations with regard to organic import fraud, and also lays out a clear plan for inter-agency coordination to ensure full collaboration between USDA and relevant border and customs agencies.
<p><u>Certification Cost Share Assistance</u></p> <p>The bipartisan Local Food and Regional Market Supply Act (Local FARMS Act (H.R. 3941/S. 1947), introduced by Pingree, Fortenberry, and S.P. Maloney et al. reauthorizes the Organic Cost Share Program, as well as other programs to help farmers tap into growing markets and help consumers access healthy food.</p>	NOCCS and AMA Certification Cost Share fully funded	Organic Certification Cost Share is cut entirely: NOCCS -- \$0 AMA – \$0	The bill provides full mandatory funding (\$11.5 million annually) for the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program. Also keeps the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program intact.

PROGRAMS	\$\$ ASK	HOUSE BILL	SENATE BILL
<p><u>Seeds and Animal Breeds to Address Farmers' Needs</u></p> <p>The new Farm Bill should require USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to use its existing competitive grants research programs to collectively allocate \$50 million annually to public plant and animal breeding programs, with a focus on developing regionally adapted cultivars and animal breeds. Seeds for the Future Act (H.R. 5208)</p>	<p>\$50 m.</p> <p>Require public funding to only pay for public cultivars.</p> <p>Seeds & Breeds Coordinator</p>	<p>\$0.</p> <p>None of the proposed provisions to reinvigorate public plant and animal breeding were included in the bill.</p>	<p>\$0 funding.</p> <p>The bill includes good language to amend the statutory language for the National Genetic Resources Advisory Committee to require them to do an assessment of needs related to public cultivar development, and to make recommendations to the Secretary regarding funding. It also requires 4 seats on the NGRAC for members with public cultivar development expertise. Fails to include public animal breeding.</p>
<p><u>Conservation Program Reforms – Organic</u></p> <p>The payment limits under the Organic Initiative within the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) should be equalized with the rest of the EQIP program to ensure full opportunity for organic farmers to participate in the program.</p> <p>Homegrown Organic Act (H.R. 3637, S.2215).</p> <p>Conservation programs in general are important for the environment and all farmers, including organic farmers.</p>	<p>Equalize payment limits for organic to the same as the rest of the EQIP program</p>	<p>-- NO equalization of the payment limits for organic farmers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cuts total funding for the conservation title by nearly \$1 billion. Including cutting funding for working lands conservation programs by nearly \$5 B. over 10 years. 2. Eliminates authority and funding for CSP 3. Attacks and weakens the Endangered Species Act by allowing the approval of pesticides without considering the impact on endangered species. 	<p>The bill fails to correct the organic payment limit inequity under the EQIP program. While the bill maintains level funding for conservation programs overall, it makes cuts to both EQIP and CSP programs to fund other conservation programs. The bill also creates a new Organic Initiative within CSP to allocate funds to each State to "support organic production and transition to organic."</p>
<p><u>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs</u></p> <p>SNAP is the financial centerpiece of the farm bill, which is estimated to cost \$87 billion a year, with three-fourths of it going to food stamps</p>		<p>The work requirements "would cause more than 1 m. low-income households - about 2 m. people — low-income working families with children — to lose their benefits altogether or have them reduced," increasing hunger. [Ctr. On Budget and Policy Priorities].</p>	<p>The Senate bill does not have work requirements for SNAP benefits.</p>
<p>The "Protect Interstate Commerce Act," is an Amendment Introduced by Rep. Steve King -- HR 4879/3599 to Pre-empt State or Local regulations on agricultural production. We oppose this pre-emption</p>		<p>This Amendment is in the Mark-Up voted on by the House Agriculture Committee</p>	<p>There is no such amendment in the Senate Bill</p>
<p>For Up To The Minute Farm Bill information, see: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, and the NSAC blog, as well as RAFI</p>			