



Congressional Update: Senate Agriculture Committee Releases Reconciliation Proposal

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – June 12, 2025

Following passage of the House of Representatives' comprehensive reconciliation bill, *the One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act* (H.R. 1), Senate committees have begun to release pieces of their own reconciliation package, including the Senate Agriculture Committee. The Senate Agriculture proposal functions like the House version in that it achieves cost savings through reducing funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and includes mandatory funding for numerous Farm Bill programs. While the two bills are similar, the Senate version would have a net savings of \$144 billion in comparison to the Congressional Budget Office estimate of \$238 billion for the House Agriculture proposal. The difference in cost savings is one of the numerous deviations Senate committees are making from H.R. 1 and may prove challenging in brokering a final agreement between the House and Senate.

By making steep cuts to mandatory nutrition programs and addressing certain pressing commodity payment and reference price issues, both usually considered in the Farm Bill, this package, like the House version, puts at risk the delicate balance of Republican and Democratic priorities required to build momentum for a Farm Bill every five years. The current Farm Bill is in its second one-year extension.

Similarly, SNAP changes which propose to shift a portion of benefit costs to states could have a major impact on state budgets.

Key provisions in the bill include:

SNAP and SNAP Education

- SNAP-Education would lose mandatory funding for the program in FY 2025, in alignment with the House proposal.
- In addition to policies that would shrink the pool of eligible recipients, the bill requires future updates to the Thrifty Food Plan, which sets benefit rates, to be cost-neutral and matches the House proposal to limit benefit indexing.
- Differing from the House, the Senate removes the 5 percent baseline cost care for states and caps cost-share at 15% based on state's error rates rather than the House plan which has a 25% cap. This would be the first time SNAP benefit costs have been delegated to states and would have a very large impact on state budgets.

Mandatory Funding for Agriculture Research Initiatives (same as the House)

- The bill would provide \$125 million for the *Research Facilities Act* in FY 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter for infrastructure at colleges of agriculture.
- The bill would also provide funding for many Farm Bill "orphan programs," which have been without funding since the Farm Bill's most recent extension last fall. These include:

- \$2 million a year through FY 2031 for the Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agriculture Production, Research, Education, and Extension Initiative
- \$37 million for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) available until expended
- \$60 million for Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions for FY 2026, to remain available until expended
- \$8 million for the Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities Program, available until expended
- \$80 million in FY 2025 and \$175 million in FY 2026 for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative
- \$25 million a year through FY 2031 for Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Development Trust Fund

Animal Health Provisions (same as the House)

- The bill would provide \$233 million in mandatory funding for Animal Disease Prevention and Management, which includes:
 - Continuing \$10 million per year for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN),
 - Providing \$70 million per year for the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program, a more than \$50 million increase, and
 - \$153 million per year for the National Animal Vaccine Bank, as compared to approximately \$2 million in mandatory funding in the 2018 Farm Bill

Other Provisions of Note:

- Conservation Programs (same as the House): The bill would reestablish baseline *Inflation Reduction Act* conservation funding, including increases for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program, but it would remove requirements that funds be used on climate-smart agriculture and rescind unobligated climate related funds to instead go toward the mentioned increases. Baseline funds will be available in the budget for future Farm Bills.
- Commodity Payments (same as the House): The bill would increase reference prices and commodity payment limits, another key component of Farm Bill negotiations which, if passed, would dramatically decrease incentives for passing a full Farm Bill this year.

Sources and Additional Information:

- Text of the bill can be found at:
https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/senate_ag_committee_budget_reconciliation.pdf
- The section by section of the bill can be found at:
https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/senate_anf_section_by_section_final.pdf
- The bill's one pager can be found at:
https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/anf_one_pager.pdf