



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Farm Bill Now Coalition Unites Nation's Farm Groups in Push for New Farm Bill**

*New website, events in Iowa, DC, highlight effort to provide American farmers with certainty, security*

**Washington, D.C.** – The National Potato Council has joined a coalition of 39 of the nation's foremost agricultural organizations to raise public awareness of the need for Congress to pass a new, comprehensive, five-year farm bill before current farm programs expire in September.

The coalition, called Farm Bill Now, comprises associations and coalitions representing commodity crops, livestock, dairy, specialty crops, state and local governments, minor crops, energy and biobased product groups, farm cooperatives and financial groups, as well as the nation's two largest farm groups, the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Farmers Union. Each organization has strong and distinct policy priorities, yet all 39 are committed to passing a new, comprehensive bill this year.

The group issued the following statement, titled "Why We Need a Farm Bill," on the importance of new farm legislation for America's farmers:

"Calling the farm bill the 'farm bill' suggests its impact is limited only to farms and to the rural areas to which they are so closely tied. It's really a jobs bill. A food bill. A conservation bill. A research bill. An energy bill. A trade bill. In other words, it's a bill that affects every American.

"The farm bill affects our nation's ability to provide the necessities of life for a global population projected to pass 9 billion by 2050. Here at home, it affects an industry that provides 23 million—or 1 in every 12—American jobs.

"The farm bill has broad impact on our citizens and our economy. It provides healthy foods to millions of schoolchildren and nutritious options to families in need. It develops and expands trade with valuable foreign markets. By reducing spending significantly compared to prior farm bills, the proposals pending right now in Congress address the need to get our nation's fiscal house in order.

"And yes, it benefits American farms—98 percent of which are owned and operated by families. It helps big farms and small farms, major crops and specialty crops, organic farmers and conventional farmers, cattle ranchers and cotton ginneries, farmers markets and national suppliers, and the vast range of other pursuits that make up American agriculture. This year, it would help farmers tackle the challenges posed by the worst drought in a generation.

“While Congress waits to finish the farm bill, we are united in asking all Americans to encourage legislators—home for summer town hall meetings and speeches—to finish this vital legislation before the current farm and food law expires in September. After all, it’s your bill too.”

In addition to today’s statement, Farm Bill Now launched an interactive web portal at [www.FarmBillNow.com](http://www.FarmBillNow.com), through which visitors can connect with their members of Congress and show their support for a new five-year farm bill. Using messages to Congress via social media, event locations and times, and an online petition, [FarmBillNow.com](http://FarmBillNow.com) gives farmers and consumers the resources they need to make their voices heard, telling Congress that the farm bill needs to be completed before the current farm food law expires in September.

In the coming weeks, Farm Bill Now will hold events in Iowa and on Capitol Hill to underscore the message. On the afternoon of Tuesday, Aug. 28, farmers representing multiple groups within the coalition will discuss the Farm Bill Now effort at the annual Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa, the nation’s largest outdoor farm show. On the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 12, coalition representatives will gather at the U.S. Capitol to encourage Congress to pass the bill before programs expire.

For more information on Farm Bill Now and to get involved in ensuring that American agriculture has the security and certainty that it needs, please visit [FarmBillNow.com](http://FarmBillNow.com).

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**Farm Bill Now** is a coalition of 39 agricultural groups, each with strong and varied policy priorities, yet all committed to passing a farm bill this year. Learn more at [www.FarmBillNow.com](http://www.FarmBillNow.com).

25x'25 Alliance	National Farmers Union
Agricultural Retailers Association	National Milk Producers Federation
American Beekeeping Federation	National Potato Council
American Farm Bureau Federation	National Sorghum Producers
American Feed Industry Association	National Sunflower Association
American Pulse Association	Northharvest Bean Growers Association
American Seed Trade Association	Northeast State Association for Agricultural Stewardship
American Sheep Industry Association	Produce Marketing Association
American Soybean Association	Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
American Sugar Alliance	Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance
Biobased Products Coalition	State Agriculture and Rural Leaders
Council of State Governments East	United Dairymen of Arizona
Council of State Governments Midwest	United Fresh Produce Association
Farm Credit Council	U.S. Canola Association
National Association of Wheat Growers	U.S. Dry Bean Council
National Barley Growers Association	USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council
National Cattlemen's Beef Association	USA Rice Federation
National Corn Growers Association	Western Growers Association
National Cotton Council	Western Peanut Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives	

**The National Potato Council** is the advocate for the economic well-being of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental, and trade issues. Potato growers, along with the U.S. potato industry as a whole, directly benefit from involvement in the National Potato Council. NPC supports the U.S. potato industry by monitoring issues affecting the strength and viability of the potato industry, influencing regulators and legislators on issues crucial to the industry's long term success, ensuring fair market access for potatoes and potato products, and bringing the unique issues and interests of diverse growing regions in the U.S. together on a national level. The National Potato Council is a voluntary organization supported by quota assessments from state organizations, allied industry memberships and sponsorships, and directly by potato growers through membership dues.