SOLVING HUNGER TODAY,
ENDING HUNGER TOMORROW

FEEDING AMERICA

Wisconsin Farmers Union
UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Feeding Wisconsin 2018 Hunger and Health Summit
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3. What to expect
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5. What to do in response
“It’s like a Swiss Army knife.”

- President Obama 2/7/14
Farm Bill Overview: What is it?

- It is the major piece of food and farm legislation that gets revisited or reauthorized every ~5 years
  - Must be reauthorized by October 2018

- The farm bill sets U.S. food and farm priorities by funding programs that provide a safety-net for agricultural producers and for low-income Americans
  - Commodity crops and subsidies
  - Provides crop insurance
  - Land conservation
  - Agricultural research
  - International aid
  - Nutrition
  - Rural development
Farm Bill Overview: What nutrition programs does it cover?

- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CFSP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, i.e. food stamps)
  - SNAP Benefit Levels and Enrollment Policies
  - SNAP Outreach
  - SNAP Nutrition Education
  - SNAP Employment and Training (E&T)

- Other:
  - Senior Farmer’s Markets
  - Food Insecurity and Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Grants
  - Healthy Food Financing Initiative
  - Mobile SNAP Processing
  - SNAP E&T Pilots
  - Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
  - Food Policy/Food Donation Policies
  - Community Food Projects Grants
Projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Act, 2014-2018

- Nutrition: 80%
- Commodity: 5%
- Crop insurance: 8%
- Conservation: 6%
- Other: 1%

Total outlays = $489 billion

Estimated Federal Outlays (FY2017-2026)
CBO August 2016 Baseline (in billions)

- Mandatory Spending (66%)
- Discretionary Spending (24%)
- Net Interest (9%)

- Social Security $12,521 (24%)
- Medicare $9,596 (18%)
- Medicaid $5,001 (9%)
- Other Mandatory $7,323 (14%)
- Other Discretionary $8,497 (12%)
- Defense $6,480 (12%)
- Net Interest $4,838 (9%)

Conservation $58 (0.11%)
Farm $138 (0.26%)
Safety Net $697 (1.31%)

NOTE: total outlays from FY2017 to FY2026—$53.148 trillion—excludes offsetting receipts of $2.918 trillion.
Rural vs. Urban Congressional Districts

- Mostly Urban: 254 (58.4%)
- Urban/Rural: 147 (33.8%)
- Rural: 34 (7.8%)

Legend:
- More than 80% Urban
- Urban and Rural Mix
- More than 50% Rural
Farmer’s Share of Retail Food Dollar

Did you know that farmers and ranchers receive only 15.8\(^*\) cents of every food dollar that consumers spend on food at home and away from home?

According to USDA, off farm costs including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Retail Price</th>
<th>Farmer Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacon 1 Pound</td>
<td>$5.89</td>
<td>$0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Sirloin Steak 1 Pound</td>
<td>$8.49</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread 1 Pound</td>
<td>$3.59</td>
<td>$0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Carrots 5 Pounds</td>
<td>$5.49</td>
<td>$1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer 6-Pack Cans</td>
<td>$7.29</td>
<td>$0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereal 18 Ounce Box</td>
<td>$4.69</td>
<td>$0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes 1 Pound</td>
<td>$3.28</td>
<td>$0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs 1 Dozen</td>
<td>$3.59</td>
<td>$0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour 5 Pounds</td>
<td>$2.99</td>
<td>$0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boneless Ham Price per Pound</td>
<td>$3.99</td>
<td>$0.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Title II – Conservation

NFU:

• Additional acreage under CRP
• Maintenance of funding for working lands conservation programs

Expectation:

• CRP increase to 28-30 million acres but decreased payment rates
• Merging EQIP and CSP
• Increases to ACEP and RCPP
Title VI – Rural Development

NFU:
• Increased funding for Broadband Loans and Loan Guarantees
• Increase funding for Value-Added Producer Grant
• Maintain funding for Rural Cooperative Development Grant

Expectations:
• Big focus on broadband programs
• Targeting programs for opioid response
• Infrastructure package ($25 billion for rural)
Title IX – Energy

NFU:
• Triple mandatory funding for Rural Energy for America Program
• Maintenance of Biorefinery and Biomass Crop Assistance Program and Biomass Research and Development

Expectation:
• House Plan will disband Energy Title
• Preserve REAP
• Program eliminations?
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network

~ Federal program approved by the 2008 Farm Bill
   ~ Meant to provide farmers with affordable stress assistance programs
   ~ Would have provided grants to support farm helplines and websites, education, support groups, outreach, home delivery of assistance

~ Never received funding

NFU: Reauthorize FRSAN and provide adequate funding
Timeline and Process

Though hesitant at first, Hank orders the ‘Watching Paint Dry Network’ offered exclusively through his satellite provider.
Timeline and Process

Hearings and listening sessions

House Agriculture Committee drafts and passes bill. Full House debates the bill, considers amendments, and votes

Senate Agriculture Committee also drafts and passes bill, considered and voted by full Senate

A conference Committee allows the House and Senate to come to a compromise

Final bill passed by House and Senate

Signed into law (or vetoed) by the President
What to Expect…

…When You’re Expecting
What do we expect in the Farm Bill?
Key SNAP Facts to Remember

1. Most SNAP recipients who can work do work
2. SNAP encourages work
The vast majority of SNAP recipients who can work do work

4 Out of 5 SNAP Participants Are Not Expected to Work or Are Working

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not expected to work (children, elderly, disabled)</th>
<th>Currently employed</th>
<th>Not currently employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNAP Households with Working-Age Non-Disabled Adults Have High Work Rates

Work participation during the previous and following year for households that received SNAP in a typical month

- Children under 18: 44%
- Non-working non-elderly parent caring for a child under age 6 in a household with a worker, or non-disabled adult caring for a disabled person: 4%
- Elderly (age 60 or over): 11%
- Non-elderly adults who are disabled: 9%

Employed in month of SNAP receipt:
- All SNAP households: 58%
- Families with children: 62%

Employed within a year:
- All SNAP households: 82%
- Families with children: 87%

Note: This chart takes out individuals with earnings first, and then looks at those “not expected to work” among individuals without earnings.
Source: CBPP calculations based on 2004 SIPP Panel data.
SNAP Encourages Work

1. The entitlement structure guarantees food assistance will be available to any eligible applicant when they need it.

2. The benefit formula favors earned income over other income through an earned income deduction.

3. The benefit phase out structure decreases benefits gradually as income rises.

4. A state option eases the modest benefit cliff.
SNAP Benefits Phase Out

SNAP Benefits Gradually Phase Out as Earnings Rise

- Monthly earnings
- Monthly SNAP benefit

Monthly earnings as a share of the poverty line (for a family of 3)
Categorical Eligibility, wonky but true…

Categorical Eligibility Smooths the Benefit Phase-Out and Encourages Work

- **Monthly earnings**
- **Monthly SNAP benefit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Total Resources</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$2,308</strong> under Federal Rules</td>
<td>$2,166</td>
<td>129% of poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$2,253</strong> under State Option</td>
<td>$2,253</td>
<td>&gt;130% of poverty*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$2,364</strong> using State Option</td>
<td>$2,253</td>
<td>&gt;130% of poverty*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GO
What do we expect in the Farm Bill?

- Changes to “work requirements”
  - ABAWDs
  - Age cutoff
  - Households with children
  - Mandatory E&T
  - Time limit changes
  - Work hours

- Eliminate Broad Based Categorical Eligibility

- LIHEAP link removed
What to **say** in response?
Topline Message

• *Cuts and harmful changes to SNAP that take away people’s food have no place in the Farm Bill*

• *We urge Congress to focus on policies that help create jobs and boost wages, rather than punishing people who are already facing economic hardship.*
Focus high-level on cuts to SNAP

• SNAP is an incredibly effective anti-hunger program. We urge Congress not to cut or include harmful changes to SNAP in the Farm Bill.

If the House Farm Bill contains cuts to SNAP:
• The proposed cuts and changes to SNAP will take away food from children, working people, veterans, the unemployed, and others struggling to make ends meet.

• SNAP, not private charity, is the first line of defense against hunger. SNAP helps struggling families and workers put healthy food on their tables.
Accentuate the Positive

• Assert that SNAP is a successful program with far-reaching, positive impacts.

• Focus on:
  – Who SNAP helps
  – How SNAP makes a difference
  – Why SNAP is a success story
We are pro-work too.

- We can all agree the helping people who can work get good-paying jobs is an important goal, but more harsh and restrictive SNAP work requirements won’t help us get there.
If you need to get into the details of specific proposals:

Making the three-month time limit worse:
• Punishing workers for being unemployed by taking away their food assistance won’t help them find a better job or find work faster.
• Making the time limit worse punishes workers too.
• SNAP can be part of the solution to helping people who are in between jobs.
• Limiting a state’s ability to waive the SNAP time limit will come back to bite us in the next economic recession.

Eliminating Categorical Eligibility:
• Proposals to restrict or eliminate categorical eligibility would create a benefit cliff that punishes people who are trying to do all the right things: work more hours, get a better-paying job, or save money so that an unexpected bill or illness doesn’t push them under water.
• This could result in millions of low-income families losing their SNAP benefits and going hungry
• Restricting categorical eligibility would mean thousands of children would lose access to free school meals.
Share an alternative vision for SNAP and the Farm Bill

• *Instead of talking about policy changes focused on punishing people struggling to find jobs and making people hungrier, we ought to be talking about how to build upon SNAP’s strengths.*

• *SNAP is a sound investment with respect to health outcomes as well as long-term education and employment outcomes. Strengthening, not cutting, SNAP is the right pathway forward.*
What to do in response?
If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the Washington office have on his/her decision?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advocacy Strategy</th>
<th>A Lot of Positive Influence</th>
<th>Some Influence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Person Issue Visits from Constituents</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact from a Constituent Who Represents Other Constituents</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individualized Postal Letters</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individualized Email Messages</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Calls</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments During a Telephone Town Hall</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit From a Lobbyist</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Editorial Endorsement of an Issue</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individualized Faxes</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form Postal Letters</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Form Email Messages</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcards</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments on Social Media Sites</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form Faxes</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A Lot of Positive Influence, Some Influence
What is the best way to reach out to Legislators?

Most Effective methods:
- Visits
- Personalized email
- Phone call
- Written letter (faxed if destined for D.C.)
- LARGE number of Twitter comments

Less effective methods:
- Click-and-send email (form letter)
- Pre-printed post card
- Petitions
District 1: Representative Paul Ryan – 202-225-3031

District 2: Representative Mark Pocan – 202-225-2906

District 3: Representative Ron Kind – 202-225-5506

District 4: Representative Gwen Moore – 202-225-4572

District 5: Representative Jim Sensenbrenner – 202-225-5101

District 6: Representative Glenn Grothman– 202-225-2476

District 7: Representative Sean Duffy – 202-225-3365

District 8: Representative Mike Gallagher – 202-225-5665
Senator Ron Johnson – 202-224-5323

Senator Tammy Baldwin – 202-224-5653
Key Farm Bill Decision Makers

House and the Senate Agriculture Committee leadership

Chairman: Rep. Mike Conaway (R – TX)
Ranking Member: Rep. Collin Peterson (D – MN)
Chairman: Sen. Pat Roberts (R – KS)
Ranking Member: Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D – MI)
Chairman of Nutrition Sub-Committee: Rep. Glenn Thompson (R – PA)
Ranking Member of Nutrition Sub-Committee: Rep. Jim McGovern (D – MA)

For the full list of Committee members, see
https://agriculture.house.gov/ and
Key Stakeholders

- Ag Researchers
- SNAP Participants
- Rural Communities
- Environmental Advocates
- Anti-Hunger Community
- Farmers and Ranchers
- Grocers and Food Processors
- Who else?
Engage. Educate.  

- Meetings
- Site Visits
- Phone Calls
- Roundtables
- Town Hall

- Tell your story
- Talk to friends and influencers (tell your story)
- Talk to policymakers (tell your story)
Tips for Writing a Great Press Release

1. Craft a catchy headline
2. Cut to the chase: what happened that was newsworthy?
3. Include a soundbite-ready quotation
4. Offer background info and facts to fill out the story
5. Provide contact information and personal/organizational snapshot
CONTACT

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THANK YOU