SAFSF 2023 Federal Policy Principles

PRINCIPLE 1: Close the racial and economic gaps created by provisions that subsidize farm consolidation and favor production methods that create barriers and reduce opportunities for operators of small and medium scale farms and historically disadvantaged farmers.

PRINCIPLE 2: Protect our rich agricultural lands and our long-term environmental health through robust conservation programs that support crop, livestock, and natural diversity, as well as conservation-based farming systems, as valuable tools to reduce agricultural risk, support production of nutrient-dense food, sustainable fibers and address water quality, biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

PRINCIPLE 3: Repair and rebuild thriving rural communities damaged by farm bill provisions that hasten depopulation and loss of economic opportunity through consolidation and concentration in the agricultural sector.

PRINCIPLE 4: Build resilient local and regional food and fiber systems that safeguard the right of every human being to eat and be nourished regardless of economic circumstances.
SAFSF FORUM YEAR BY YEAR

2001
NEW YORK, NY

2023 SAFSF FORUM
June 12 - 14, Washington, D.C.

See You in
Albuquerque, NM

FIELDS OF VISION
ANNUAL FORUM 2021
20th Annual SAFSF Forum: Commitment & Accountability
**What is the Farm Bill?**

The farm bill is the most significant piece of legislation Congress enacts that has a direct impact on farming livelihoods, how food is produced, what kinds of foods are grown, and how economically distressed families eat.


The 2018 Farm Bill includes 12 Titles and is set to expire on September 30, 2023.

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**What's Included and What's Not?**

**IN THE FARM BILL**
- Title I - Commodity Programs
- Title II - Conservation
- Title III - Trade
- Title IV - Nutrition
- Title V - Credit
- Title VI - Rural Development
- Title VII - Research, Extension and Related Matters
- Title VIII - Forestry
- Title IX - Title XII - Miscellaneous Energy
- Title X - Horticulture
- Title XI - Crop Insurance

**NOT (currently) IN THE FARM BILL**
- Farm and food worker rights and protections
- Public land grazing rights
- Irrigation water rights
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food safety
- Renewable fuel standards
- Tax issues
- School meal programs
- The Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) program
- Some pesticide laws
- The Clean Water Act
- The Clean Air Act

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**Who in Congress writes the Farm Bill?**

- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- House Committee on Agriculture

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**Big Picture & Politics**

- Key debates
  - $20B in IRA Funding allocated for USDA conservation programs
  - Nutrition program funding
  - New Agriculture Committee members and staff
  - Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow’s 2024 retirement
  - Big Ag v. Small Ag (and other hot button words that mean different things to different people)

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**Role of Philanthropy**

- Building relationships and educating policymakers
- Connecting grantees and advocacy organizations with policymakers
- Funding policy advocacy and grassroots organizing
- Providing matching dollars and technical assistance for federal grants

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**How much does it cost?**

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the 10-year baseline (FY2024-2033) for the Farm Bill is projected to be over $1.5 trillion.
Building the U.S. natural regenerative fiber ecosystem is our opportunity to invest in equity and climate mitigation

- Soil-based, regenerative natural fibers have fewer negative impacts on our ecologies and the people who work with them.
- Building soil-based natural fibers unlocks the potential for regenerative land management, climate change mitigation, and an alternative to the extractive textile industry.
- Regenerative fiber producers and sustainable textile businesses are using practices that honor the humans, animals and ecological relationships that create our material realities.
- Recognizing the legacies of fiber & textile production in the U.S., supporting Black and Indigenous producers and processors acknowledges these communities as crucial to a truly regenerative ecosystem.

Fibers & The Farm Bill

**Farm Bill Programs We Hope to Tweak for Inclusion of Fibers**

- Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP)
- Business & Industry Loan Program
- Farm Real Estate and Operation Loans
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- EQIP Conservation Innovation Grants
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
- Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)

**Farm Bill - Proposed Pilot Fibers Program**

Intermediary Revolving Loan Fund

- Federal grants to qualified private, non-profit entities to provide revolving loan funds for sustainable fibers entrepreneurs for the following purposes:
  - Business needs or requirements, including gap financing or similar needs for development and expansion of sustainable fibers entrepreneurs; and
  - Short-term costs incurred for replacement equipment, or other small capital projects that are not part of the regular operations and maintenance activities.

Technical Assistance Grants

- Federal grants to qualified private, nonprofit organizations to provide the following:
  - Training, operational support, business planning, and market development assistance, and other technical assistance or related services to sustainable agricultural fibers entrepreneurs, such as assistance accessing both private and public sources of capital.
For many years, we have used this taxonomy to ask SAFSF members what areas they are funding and tracked movement across these areas of impact over time. Since 2021, we have put more focus on three of these areas that offer multiple points of intersection with almost every one of the others: Climate Change, Land Access, and Consolidation.

Do these Areas of Impact reflect the current state of agriculture and food systems funding? Are all of these areas still relevant? Are there areas of work that are not reflected? Does this taxonomy ring true for you?

Share your thoughts here or in Whova in the “Areas of Impact” Community Space.
During the COVID years of 2020 and 2021, SAFSF presented approximately 60 virtual events each year. In 2022, with the return of our in-person Forum, we offered nearly 100 webinars, workshops and site visits. We are on track to equal or surpass that in 2023! Some highlights:

2020
- COVID Response and Strategy Call Series, with NASDA regional calls
- 2020 SAFSF Forum
- Fibers Roadmap Series
- Policy Outlook and Strategy Conference
- 2020-2021 Investment Cohort

2021
- 2021 SAFSF Forum
- Regional Food Funder Networks Series
- 2021-2022 Indigenous Food Systems Community of Practice
- Policy Series with FORA
- Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge Group

2022
- 2022 Policy Convening with Hill and USDA visits
- 2022 SAFSF Forum - Kansas City (in-person)
- Members In the Kitchen Calls
- Farm Bill Policy Chats
- Food is Medicine and White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health webinars
DIGGING IN
A Nathan.Works Production with Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders | Underwritten by Vatheuer Family Foundation

The SAFSF-produced documentary "Digging In" uses video content to bring an intentional focus to three specific areas of impact in agriculture and food systems - land access, consolidation and concentration, and climate change. More than 40 organizations and individuals contributed to the information and stories that made it on-screen, still just scratching the surface of these complex issues.

Host and narrator Masika Henson meets farmers and experts, whose own stories demonstrate the human impact of these challenges, as well as some of the promising solutions. Along the way, she grapples with her own emotions and personal history, and experiences aspects of the food system she's never seen before, as eyes and ears for the viewer.

Filmed in Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota, California, Atlanta, and Washington, DC, "Digging In" opens the conversation for funders to learn more and go deeper on these intersectional issues that affect every aspect of the food system.