

Farm Bill Update

Kalee Olson | Policy Manager, Center for Rural Affairs



What is the farm bill?

- Omnibus legislation
- Approximately every 5 years
- Most recent farm bill, 2018, expired Sept. 30, 2023, Congress passed an extension to Sept. 30, 2024
- Managed primarily by Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the House Committee on Agriculture.

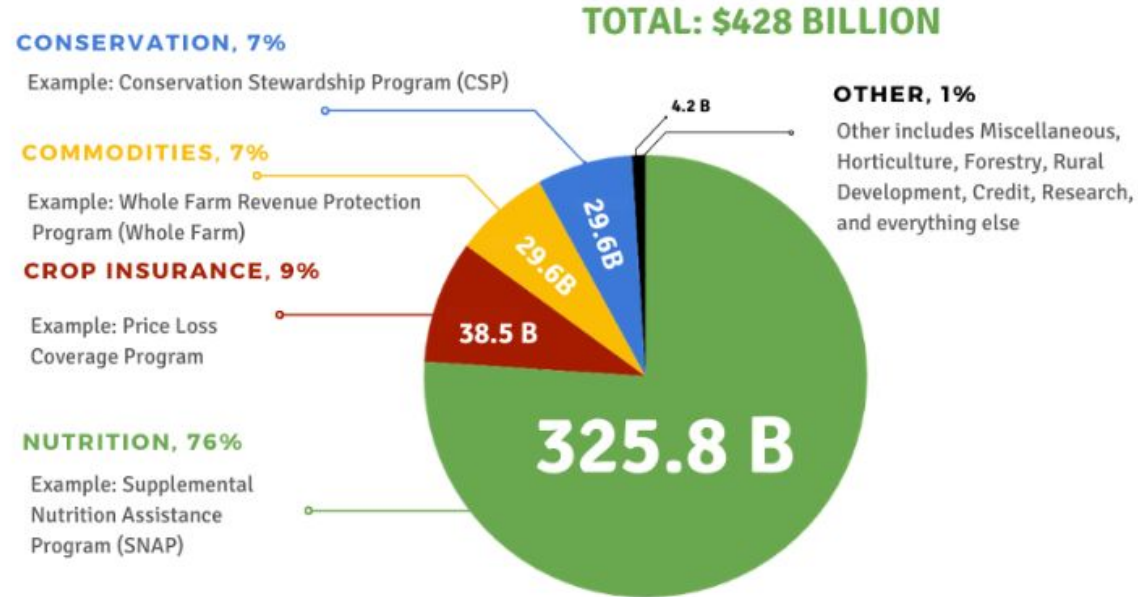


What does the farm bill cover?

1. Commodities
2. Conservation
3. Trade
4. Nutrition
5. Credit
6. Rural Development
7. Research, Extension, and Related Matters
8. Forestry
9. Energy
10. Horticulture
11. Crop Insurance
12. Miscellaneous



FARM BILL PROJECTED FUNDING, IN BILLIONS 2019-2023



Source: National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

What programs are in the farm bill?

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
Biobased Markets Program
Biodiesel Fuel Education Program
Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels
Biomass Crop Assistance Program
Biomass Crop Assistance Program
Biomass Research and Development
Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance
Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program's Local and Regional Food Enterprise Provision
Commodity Supplemental Food Program
Community Food Projects
Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program

Conservation Innovation Grants
Conservation Loans
Conservation Reserve Program
Conservation Reserve Program – Transition Incentives Program
Conservation Stewardship Program
Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans
Down Payment Loans
Emergency Food Assistance Program
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
EQIP Organic Initiative
Extension Risk Management Education Program
Farm Storage Facility Loans
Farm to School Grants
Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program
Federal crop insurance
Feedstock Flexibility Program for Bioenergy Producers
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
Food Safety Outreach Program

Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices Audit Verification Program
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program
Healthy Food Financing Initiative
Land Contract Guarantee Microloans
National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service/ATTRA
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative
Organic Certification Cost Share Program
Organic Crop Insurance
Organic Transitions Program
Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers
Regional Conservation Partnership Program
Rural Business Development Grant

Rural Energy for America Program
Rural Energy Savings Program
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
Specialty Crop Block Grants Program
Specialty Crop Research Initiative
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
Sustainable Agriculture Systems Research Program
Value-Added Producer Grants
Whole Farm Revenue Protection for Diversified Farms
WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program

...and many more!



Who's in charge?

House

Chair Rep. Glenn
"GT" Thompson
(R-PA)



Ranking Member
Rep. David Scott
(D-GA)



Senate

Chair Sen. Debbie
Stabenow (D-MI)



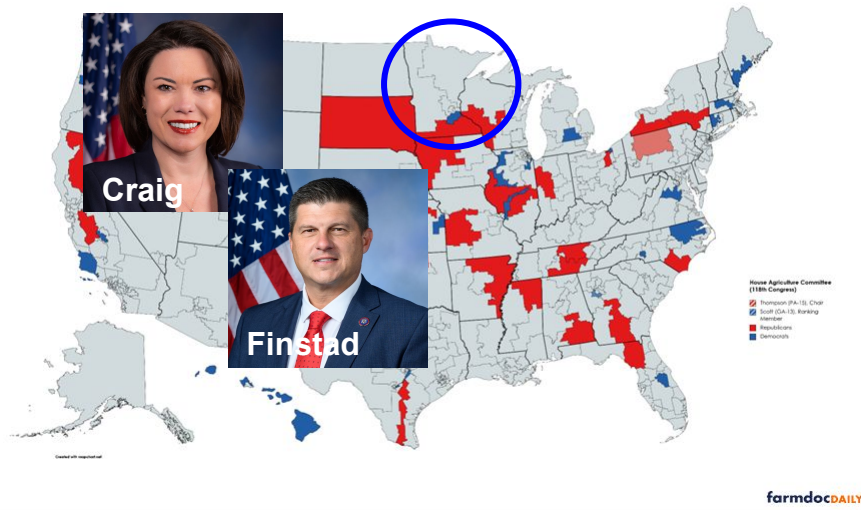
Ranking Member
Sen. John
Boozman (R-AR)



Who's on committee?

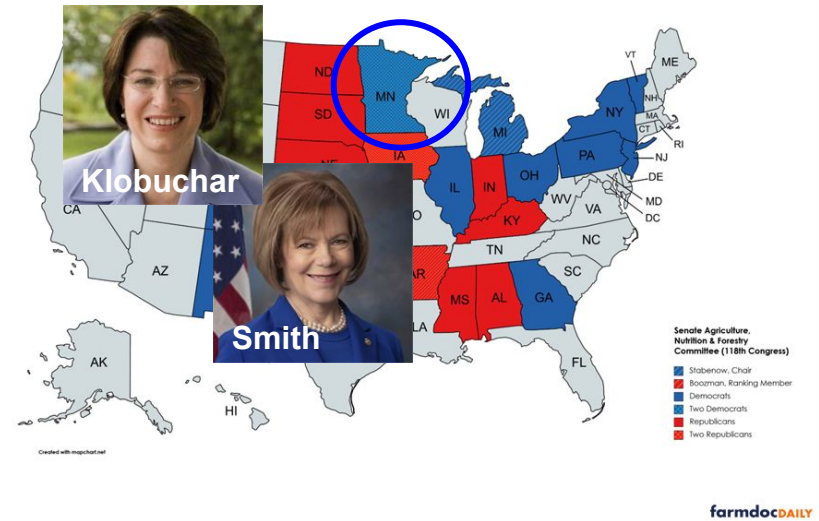
House

Figure 1. Districts Represented on the House Agriculture Committee

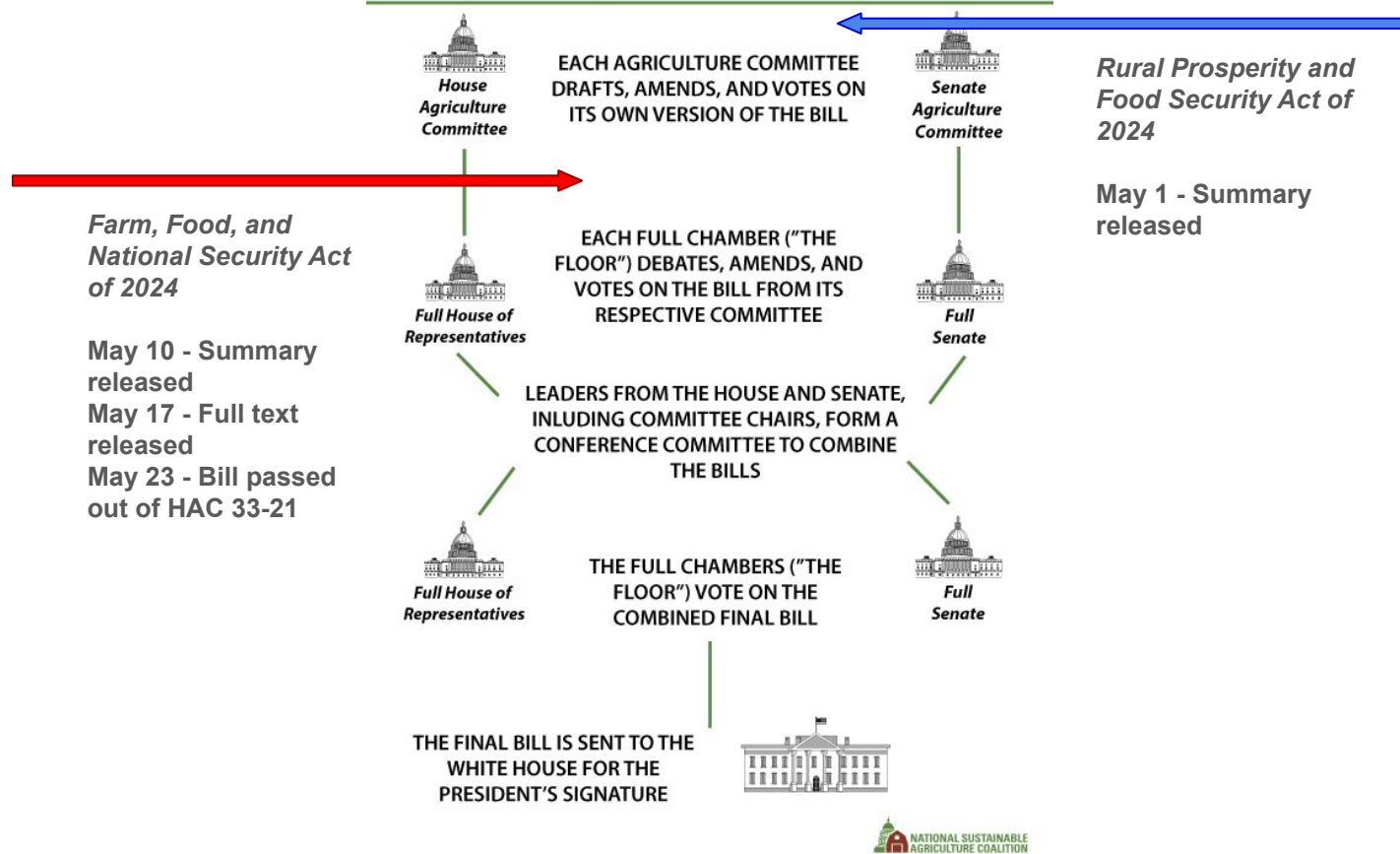


Senate

Figure 1. Map of the States of Senators on Senate ANF



The Path to a New Farm Bill



What's the holdup?

- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding
- Reference prices
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- “No new money farm bill”
- Divided Congress, elections in 2024

What lies ahead?

Two scenarios:

- Congress passes a new farm bill during the “lame duck” session after November election
- Congress passes another farm bill extension, punts new farm bill to 2025



Thank you!

Kalee Olson | kaleeo@cfra.org | 402-687-2100 x1022





Conservation Through the Farm Bill

WENDY JOHNSON, OWNER AND OPERATOR OF JOIA FOOD AND FIBER FARM
AND FEDERAL POLICY CO-LEAD FOR CLIMATE LAND LEADERS



CONVENTIONAL & ORGANIC FARMING

On 1,000 acres





**REGENERATIVE &
ORGANIC FARMING**

On 130 acres



THE CONSERVATION TITLE OF THE FARM BILL

Voluntary, farmer-focused programs that provide financial assistance for conservation

Focus on soil health, water quality, wildlife and pollinator habitat, conserving prairies and wetlands and more

Around 7% of total Farm Bill; around \$29.6 billion over the 5 years of the 2018 Farm Bill



THE CONSERVATION TITLE OF THE FARM BILL

Very popular: Only 1 in 3 farmers receive conservation contracts in two flagship programs – the Environmental Quality Incentives Program “EQIP” and the Conservation Stewardship Program “CSP”

Major boost from Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: Nearly \$20 billion in additional funding for agricultural conservation programs to focus on climate change mitigation



COMPARING SENATE AND HOUSE ON KEY CONSERVATION ISSUES

SENATE MAJORITY VERSION

IRA funding keeps climate focus, funds 4 main conservation programs

HOUSE VERSION

IRA funding loses climate focus, spread over more conservation programs

COMPARING SENATE AND HOUSE ON KEY CONSERVATION ISSUES

SENATE MAJORITY VERSION

IRA funding keeps climate focus, funds 4 main conservation programs

Adds climate change mitigation and adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction to the purposes and activities of multiple flagship conservation programs (EQIP, CSP, RCPP)

No 50% livestock operations requirement for Inflation Reduction Act EQIP contracts

Includes precision agriculture practices while also increasing access to conservation funding for small farms through 10% "set-aside" of EQIP funds

HOUSE VERSION

IRA funding loses climate focus, spread over more conservation programs

Adds greenhouse gas emissions reduction as an optional priority for states as they administer the EQIP program

Reinstates requirement that 50% of Inflation Reduction Act EQIP contracts go to livestock operations

Significant increase in support for precision agriculture practices

CONSERVATION, CLIMATE AND FARMER SAFETY NET

Conservation is preventative and builds resilience

Conservation programs support farmers diversifying their farms and getting more perennials on the land – a high impact climate solution

Conservation should save taxpayer dollars over time as farms build resilience

Still need a more level playing field for crop insurance including viable options for small and diversified farms







THANK YOU!

Wendy Johnson
wendy@climatelandleaders.org



The Food Group

Food for today. Change for tomorrow.

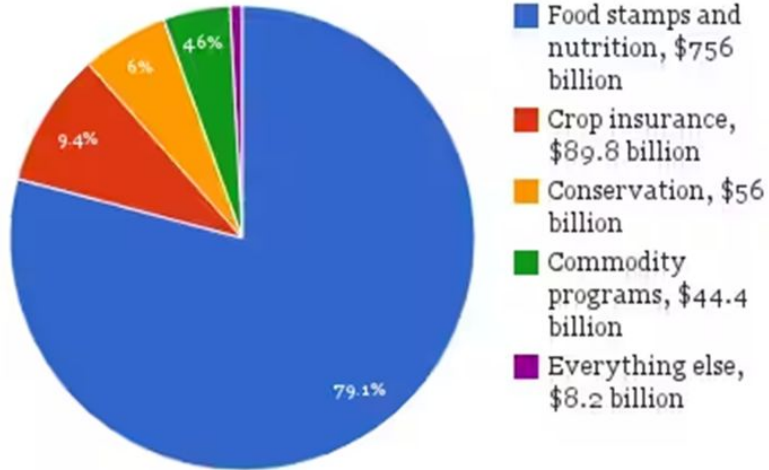
The Food Group is a statewide food equity nonprofit.

Our work against hunger is centered on building a better food system through access, equity, and nutrition.



Farm Bill Nutrition Title

What's in the farm bill? (Costs from FY2014-2023)



- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/EBT), formally Food Stamps
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Women, Infant, Children Program (WIC)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- SFMNP and GusNIP farmers market and Nutrition Incentive Programs



What is SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SNAP is the largest, most effective anti-hunger program in the nation. For every 1 meal the emergency food system provides, SNAP provides 9.

Allows for choice, dignity and cultural connection within food support.

Helps families stretch their budgets, allows them to allocate resources to other essential needs like housing and healthcare.

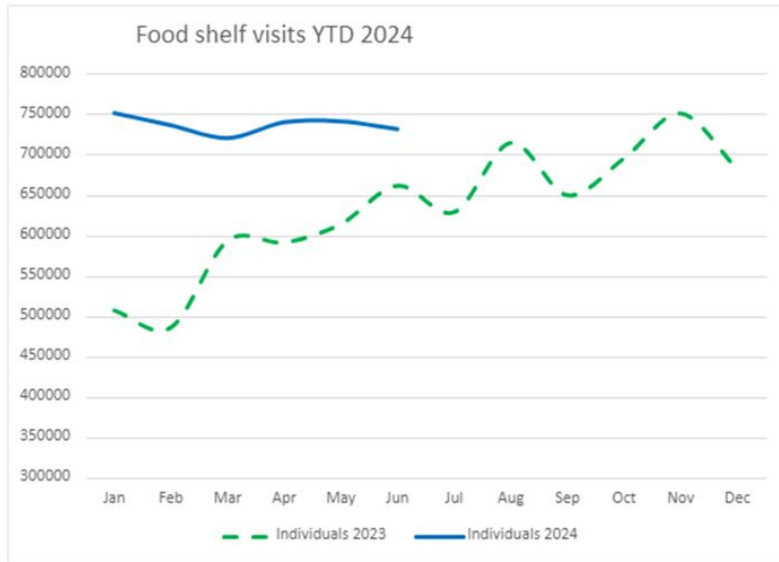
Over 450,000 individuals rely on SNAP in Minnesota



Hunger in Minnesota

Minnesotans made 7.5 million visits to their local food shelf in 2023

Over 4 million more than in 2020



SNAP & The 2024 Farm Bill

The “Thrifty Food Plan”

Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) is a USDA developed plan to estimate the cost of a frugal, but healthy diet.

In 2021, the TFP was evaluated for the first time since 1975 and was set to align with current dietary recommendations and modern consumption patterns.

Without TFP updates, SNAP benefits would be cut by \$30 billion over the next 10 years.

2021 Thrifty Food Plan Revision Meaningfully Increased Average SNAP Benefits Per Person Per Day



Without TFP Revision With TFP Revision

Note: TFP = Thrifty Food Plan

Source: CBPP analysis of 2020 pre-pandemic SNAP household characteristics data for fiscal year 2024

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG



SNAP & The 2024 Farm Bill

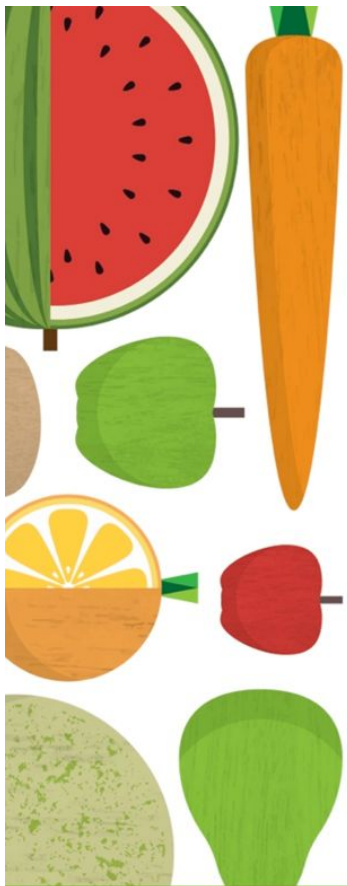
Senate Bill

- Continues the Thrifty Food Plan Update
- Makes improvements to SNAP E&T programs
- Removes lifetime ban on SNAP for those with drug-related felonies
- Increases funding for Farm to Food Bank and TEFAP Commodities
- Expands funding for GusNIP and nutrition incentive programs
- Explores allowing hot, prepared foods to be purchased with SNAP benefits
- Establishes a senior nutrition task forces to focus on food insecurity among older adults
- Improves access to SNAP for college students and military families

House Bill

- Freezes the Thrifty Food Plan update, cutting SNAP benefits by \$30 billion over 10 years
 - Cuts TEFAP by more than \$100 million
- Allows states to pilot SNAP Choice, which restricts unhealthy food purchases with SNAP benefits
- Emphasizes stricter oversight and penalties for payment errors, which places administrative burdens on states.
- More restrictive in expanding funding for nutrition programs, with limited support for initiatives like GusNIP.





Thank you!

Rachel Holmes | rholmes@hungersolutions.org





Your Partner in Prosperity

Colleen Landkamer, Minnesota State Director

Farm Bill Priorities

- Current Farm Bill ends this year
- We need a Farm Bill that:
 - Is designed for the many and the most
 - Advances food and nutrition security
 - Doesn't turn its back on promises made to farmers and communities

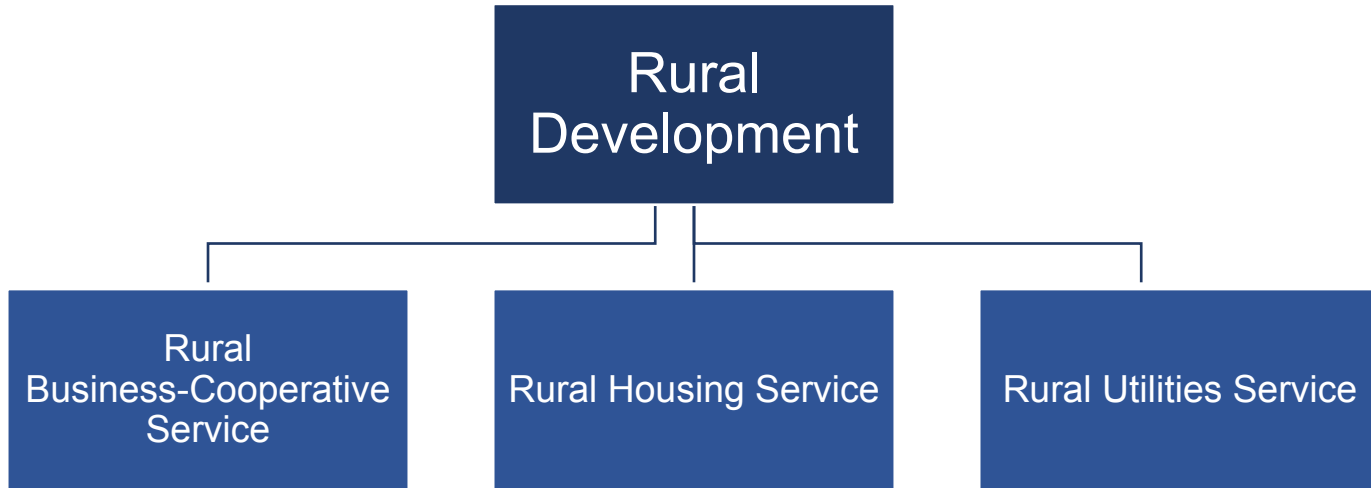


Support Beyond the Farm Bill

- American Rescue Plan Act
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Inflation Reduction Act
- Charter Act of the Commodity Credit Corporation



Rural Development Program Areas



Rural Business-Cooperative Service

- Business Programs
 - Provides financial assistance, business development, and technical assistance to rural businesses
- Energy Programs
 - Provides funding for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems
- Cooperative Programs
 - Supports development of member-owned businesses, such as rural electric cooperatives



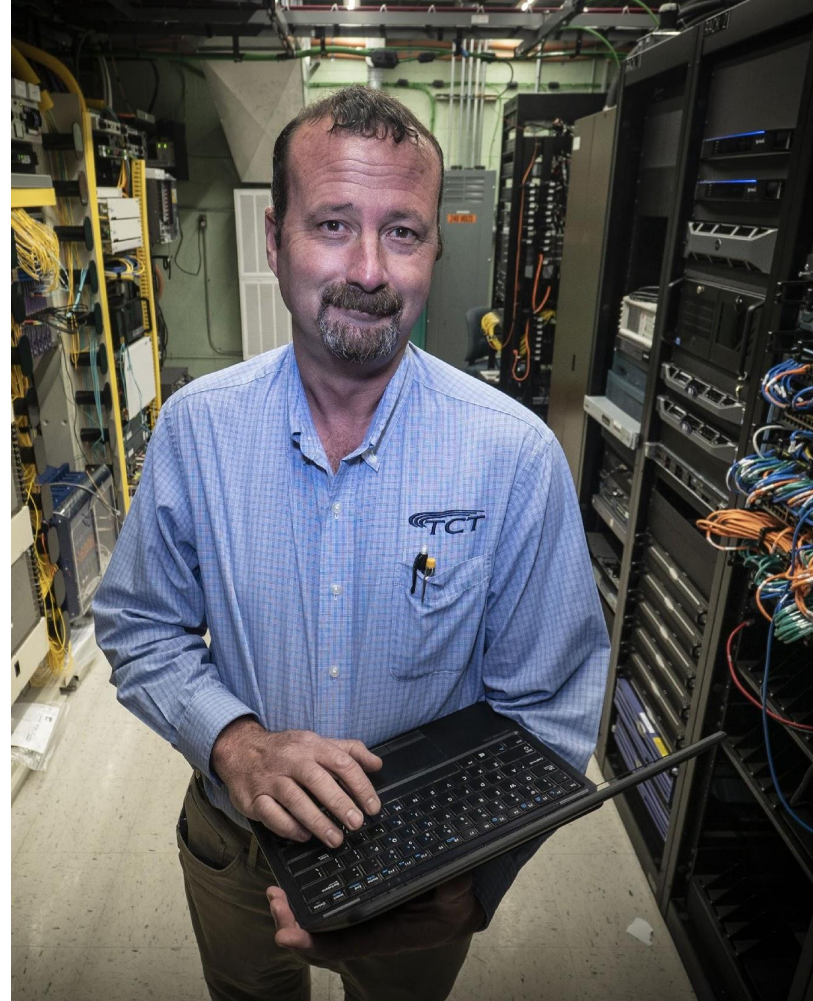
Rural Housing Service

- Single Family Housing Programs
 - Helps low-income homebuyers purchase or build homes
 - Assists very-low-income homeowners in repairing, improving, or modernizing homes
- Multifamily Housing Programs
 - Helps rural property owners develop and rehabilitate properties for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals
- Community Facilities Programs
 - Assists in developing essential community facilities, including hospitals, fire stations, town halls, and daycare centers



Rural Utilities Service

- Water and Environmental Programs (WEP)
 - Supports improvements for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities
- Electric Programs
 - Assists maintenance, expansion, and modernization of rural electric infrastructure
- Telecommunications Programs
 - Helps rural communities obtain affordable and reliable highspeed internet comparable with urban communities



Additional Resources

- Visit Rural Development's website for additional program information and resources for applicants
- Stay up to date by following us on X and signing up for emails through GovDelivery

Find Loans & Grants



For Homes

- [Buy, build, repair or refinance your home](#)
- [Build or manage multi-family homes](#)
- [Find an apartment for rent in your area](#)



For Businesses

- [Start or grow your business or cooperative](#)
- [Reduce your business's climate impact](#)
- [Help businesses start and grow](#)



For Communities

- [Develop a community economic plan](#)
- [Expand/improve community facilities & services](#)
- [Build out or upgrade water treatment facilities](#)

Explore Our Programs

[See all Programs](#) >



Water & Wastewater Infrastructure

Explore ways USDA RD can help rural communities obtain the technical assistance and financing necessary to develop drinking water and waste disposal systems.



Energy

Our Energy programs empower rural America to establish, maintain, and evolve its energy resources for a cleaner, brighter, and more sustainable future.



High-speed Internet Access

Learn about how our programs provide funds to expand high-speed internet access for rural people.



Electricity

USDA RD's electric programs help fund electric infrastructure to sustain rural economic well-being and improve quality of life.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

It's Q&A time

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Colleen Landkamer | Colleen.Landkamer@usda.gov



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RURAL AFFAIRS



R
100 RURAL WOMEN



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Winning Minnesota's Food Fight



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How can I influence the next farm bill?

Contact Agriculture Committee members:

Urge them to keep working on a new farm bill, and tell them what you care about in the next farm bill

Senator Amy Klobuchar: 202-224-3244 or <https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

Senator Tina Smith: 202-224-5641 or <https://www.smith.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/>

Congresswoman Angie Craig: 651-846-2120 or <https://craig.house.gov/contact>

Congressman Brad Finstad: 507-577-6151 or <https://finstad.house.gov/contact>



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How can I influence the next farm bill?

Contact your representatives:

<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

All Members of Congress will ultimately vote on the next farm bill – **tell them what you care about in the next farm bill**

August recess and October recess when your representatives are home working in their districts are a great time to connect!



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Thank you!

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