

General Mills: 2023 Farm Bill Priorities

General Mills is a major packaged-food manufacturer engaged for over 150 years in the development and production of food products including ready-to-eat cereals, yogurts, vegetables, soups, snacks, flour, refrigerated dough, and numerous other products. Our business is rooted in agriculture. We are investing in agricultural systems to ensure a thriving future for people and the planet, and for our business.

Title II – Conservation

- **Support Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) working lands programs**, including Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE). Farmers rely on NRCS’s working lands programs to build soil health and provide key ecosystem benefits, reaching communities beyond the farm gate. These programs are oversubscribed, demonstrating the need for expansion.
 - Prioritize soil health as the core tenet to NRCS conservation planning and develop training for field staff on emerging areas of greater interest such as in soil health and carbon markets.
 - Reduce the backlog of NRCS program applicants through increasing NRCS field staff and streamlining the application process.
 - Prioritize NRCS conservation planning and cost share on ACEP-ALE protected land.
 - Support Small-Scale and Historically Marginalized Producers through Community-based Navigators to help said producers identify and apply for NRCS and state conservation and soil health programs.
- **Support third-party, community-based technical assistance and mentorship programming**, such as peer-to-peer coaching of agronomic and economic aspects of farming for improved soil health. Community-based grants will leverage existing networks and relationships with regional farmers who have successfully implemented soil health practices in their region – creating farmer-to-farmer mentorship.
- **Support state soil health programs** through federal matching to increase producer access to existing soil health programs.

Title VII: Research, Extension & Related Matters

- **Support the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research’s (FFAR)** continued public-private-partnerships for agricultural research. Public-private partnerships like those supported through FFAR support key agricultural research in areas of water, soil health, and more, all critical for enabling a healthy food system.
- **Support USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) programs** for research into systems-based approaches for soil health and increasing rural community resilience, including Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), and Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI).
- **Provide agricultural research infrastructure support through updating land grant university tools, technologies and facilities.**

Title X: Horticulture

- **Support continued growth of the National Organic Program (NOP)** to keep pace with the expansion of the organic industry.
- **Update the Organic Foods Production Act** to establish a preplanned, predictable timeline (no less than once every five years) to review and update the organic standards to meet consumer expectations in the evolving marketplace.
- **Codify and continue support for the Organic Transition Initiative** to strengthen domestic organic supply. The Organic Transition Initiative provides technical assistance to organic and transitioning farmers and provides market development and infrastructure grants to expand domestic production and processing capacity.