



REPORT CARD

United States House of Representatives
 Assignment: 2018 Farm Bill
 Name: Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018
 Topic Area: Diversified Agricultural Economies

| FBLE Recommendation | Rating | Comments |
|---|--------|--|
| Access to Markets | | The House farm bill slashes funding for programs that provide market opportunities for small and mid-sized operations, socially disadvantaged farmers, beginning farmers and ranchers (BFR), and ranchers (SDFR), and specialty crop producers. These cuts undermine support for community access to diverse sources of food. |
| Support the development of farmer-driven distribution channels to improve small farmers' access to consumers. | | H.R. 2 strips funding from programs that support diverse farms , including the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and Value-Added Producer Grants. However, the bill maintains funding for Specialty Crop Block Grants. |
| Reduce barriers to grant and loan programs for diverse producers. | | The House bill fails to address the systemic barriers that small-scale and beginning farmers face in accessing farm bill programs. |
| Increase access to organic certification for small farms. | | The House bill eliminates funding for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program , a program that helps smaller farms achieve organic certification and sell into the growing market for organic foods. |
| Access to Insurance | | H.R. 2 makes some improvements to the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) program, which helps diversified operations access insurance products that mitigate disaster-related losses. |
| Make Whole Farm Revenue Protection more accessible. | | H.R. 2 extends beginning farmer and rancher premium discounts to farms under 10 years old, but fails to address education and outreach, agent compensation, or recordkeeping requirements that currently limit the reach of WFRP. |
| Access to Credit | | The House farm bill takes some limited steps to improve access to credit for SDFR and BFR but largely perpetuates a broken system. |
| Improve outreach to SDFR and BFR to increase participation rates in USDA programs. | | H.R. 2 maintains 2014 funding cuts for the Outreach and Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (Section 2501) Program. Modifications to the program also prioritize youth training, potentially diluting the resources reaching community organizations working directly with SDFR . H.R. 2 does reauthorize the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. |
| Ensure that existing credit programs are reaching SDFR and BFR. | | The bill increases limits on FSA Guaranteed Ownership and Operating Loans from \$1.39 to \$1.75 million. This harms smaller-scale farms by reinforcing a system that disproportionately benefits industrial animal producers and making it harder for SDFR and BFR to access credit. |
| Raise loan limits and grow credit programs geared toward SDFR and BFR. | | H.R. 2 undermines support for SDFR and BFR by freezing loan limits on Direct Ownership Loans despite rising cropland values. Although the bill reauthorizes the Microloan program, it fails to increase funding for the program or exempt microloans from term limits, missing opportunities to meet SDFR and BFR needs. |
| Improve access to data on SDFR groups and discrimination complaints. | | H.R. 2 fails to direct the USDA to disclose FSA loan data , critical information that would help policymakers craft future legislation and hold USDA accountable to provide equitable treatment to SDFR loans applicants. |
| Access to Land | | The House bill does not adequately facilitate land transition planning, incentivize farmland transfers to beginning and minority farmers, or reduce the legal impediments that currently make long-term investments impossible in some communities. |
| Support land transitions between the retiring and beginning generations of farmers. | | The House bill does not authorize new funding for CRP-TIP , a program that helps promote land transfers to SDFR and BFR. The bill establishes two initiatives to focus on land transitions , including the Commission on Farm Transition—Needs for 2050 and the Farmland Tenure, Transition, and Entry Data Initiative. |
| Mitigate potential for loss of heirs' property. | | H.R. 2 fails to address the challenges of heirs' property , leaving farmers—particularly many Black farmers in Southeast—struggling to access critical farm bill programs. |

= aligns with FBLE recommendations | Updated to reflect H.R. 2 as it passed the House on 6/21/18