



REPORT CARD

United States House of Representatives
 Assignment: 2018 Farm Bill
 Name: Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018
 Topic Area: Productivity and Risk Management

FBLE Recommendation	Rating	Comments
Commodity and Crop Insurance Programs		H.R. 2 further entrenches a system that favors the profits of agribusiness and insurance companies over struggling farmers and rural communities. The House turns its back on protecting farmer livelihoods and long-term soil health by failing to reform risk management programs.
Ensure crop insurance programs promote sound risk management practices.		H.R. 2 fails to reform government incentives that encourage environmental and financial risk-taking . Existing crop insurance incentives ensure that producers will continue to receive short-term financial gain at the expense of long-term investments in productivity and resilience.
Increase fairness in public-private crop insurance administration.		H.R. 2 continues to guarantee excessive profits to insurance companies that administer federal crop insurance. The House misses an opportunity to cut corporate largesse and reinvest the savings.
Target program payments toward payoffs for farms, communities, and stewardship.		The House bill exacerbates the inequity in a system that already disproportionately subsidizes the largest farms over small and mid-sized operations. H.R. 2 eliminates meaningful subsidy limits for individuals, opens new loopholes for corporate farms, and ends means testing that allows wealthy operators to qualify for subsidies.
Conservation Compliance		H.R. 2 fails to address serious deficiencies in conservation compliance implementation and enforcement. Without updates, the program cannot effectively guarantee that producers are meeting their duty to protect the most sensitive soil and wetlands in return for subsidies.
Bring transparency to conservation compliance.		The House bill does not require USDA to provide meaningful conservation compliance data to Congress or the public. H.R. 2 fails to adopt reporting requirements that would ensure accountability.
Update conservation compliance standards to conserve more soil.		In the House bill, most sensitive crop and wetlands acres remain vulnerable because compliance standards are too weak or do not apply.
Fund robust enforcement and technical assistance of compliance standards.		The bill does not provide funding for USDA to implement conservation compliance programs. Without funding, USDA cannot enforce compliance standards or provide farmers the support they need to comply.
Voluntary Conservation Programs		H.R. 2 moves the United States further from its conservation goals. Despite small areas of alignment with some of FBLE conservation recommendations, overall, the House farm bill guts conservation programs at precisely the time when farmers and the public need smarter and more robust investment in our soil and water.
Invest in long-term soil and water and quality.		Although the bill takes small steps toward FLBE recommendations in funding some conservation programs, it undermines federal support for conservation by eliminating CSP , the largest and most effective farm bill conservation program.
Restore EQIP's focus on smaller farms performing voluntary conservation.		H.R. 2 improves EQIP's focus by removing provisions that targeted funds to concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). But, it fails to proactively direct EQIP's resources to small and mid-sized farms and effective stewardship practices.
Prioritize innovation in conservation program spending.		The House bill takes a small step forward by creating on-farm conservation innovation trials. But, eliminating CSP will drastically limit innovation by removing the program that currently funds the leading edge of conservation practices.
Pilot Programs and Research		The House bill does not effectively develop the agricultural data our nation needs to make policy that prioritize long-term productivity and risk management. H.R. 2 also fails to address critical opportunities to build agricultural resilience.
Bolster links between insurance subsidies and soil health.		The House misses opportunities to pilot programs or collect data that would link farm bill payments to stewardship and risk management activities.
Ensure a coordinated and robust USDA response to climate change.		Instead of seizing an opportunity for USDA to help farmers mitigate and adapt to climate change, H.R. 2 eliminates focus on climate-protective practices. It also fails to incorporate climate priorities around carbon sequestration and biogas energy.
Invest in improving innovative agricultural systems.		H.R. 2 fails to make a significant public investment in research on promising new conservation methods, including perennial agriculture and precision agriculture.

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