## FBLE Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Markets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The 2018 Farm Bill farm bill increases market opportunities for small and mid-sized operations, beginning farmers and ranchers (BFR), socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR), and specialty crop producers.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Support the development of farmer-driven distribution channels to improve small farmers’ access to consumers. | | The 2018 Farm Bill **enhances programs that support diversified farms** by merging the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Programs and the Value-Added Producer Grant to create the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). LAMP **provides permanent baseline funding** to these programs. The bill also **maintains funding** for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. |

Reduce barriers to grant and loan programs for diverse producers. | | The 2018 Farm Bill directs the USDA to establish **simplified application procedures** for market-related grants and loans for smaller farms and beginning farmers, which helps these farmers access the programs. |

Increase access to organic certification for small farms. | | The 2018 Farm Bill **slashes mandatory spending** by more than half for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program and **misses an opportunity** to enable more small-scale farmers to achieve organic certification. |

**Access to Insurance** | | The 2018 Farm Bill maintains current levels of support for farmers who embrace diversified production systems gain access to risk management through Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP). |

Make Whole Farm Revenue Protection more accessible. | | The 2018 Farm Bill **strengthens WFRP** by simplifying reporting requirements and providing additional funding for WFRP outreach. However, the bill **does not include provisions that fairly compensate** insurance agents who work with farmers to write whole-farm policies. |

**Access to Credit** | | The 2018 Farm Bill farm bill takes modest steps to help socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers (SDFR and BFR) access the credit they need. |

Improve outreach to SDFR and BFR to increase participation rates in USDA programs. | | The 2018 Farm Bill slightly **increases funding for SDFR and BFR support**. It combines the Outreach Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program and the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program to **create the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program** and creates permanent baseline for the programs. |

Ensure that existing credit programs are reaching SDFR and BFR. | | The law increases limits on FSA Guaranteed Ownership and Operating Loans from $1.39 to $1.75 million. Such increases **harm smaller-scale farms**, perpetuate a system that disproportionately benefits large-scale producers, and make it harder for SDFR and BFR to access credit. |

Raise loan limits and grow credit programs geared toward SDFR and BFR. | | The 2018 Farm Bill does not contain specific programs that would help SDFRs access credit similar to BFR. However, the 2018 Farm Bill does **commission the Comptroller General and GAO to study** credit and related services available to SDFR, which may result in future programs that are more targeted and data-driven. |

Improve access to data on SDFR groups and discrimination complaints. | | The 2018 Farm Bill requires a GAO report on credit service to SDFR. That **report must make recommendations for improvement and must be released to Congress**. The study could result in more targeted and data-drive future credit programs for SDFR, but will mean that the data relied upon in the report will be available to SDFR groups. |

**Access to Land** | | The 2018 Farm Bill studies but does not adequately address land transition planning, farmland transfers to SDFR and BFR, or legal impediments to long-term investments. |

Support land transitions between the retiring and beginning generations of farmers. | | The 2018 Farm Bill **recognizes challenges of land transition** by calling for a study of farmland ownership and land access. It also maintains CRP-TIP, a program that helps BFR and SDFR access land, but does not provide additional funding. Still, the bill **misses opportunities to encourage and aid land transitions**, such as by providing direct services for sales and probate. |

Mitigate potential for loss of heirs’ property. | | The 2018 Farm Bill directly **addresses the challenges of heirs’ property** by directing USDA to authorize relending projects and plan for succession. The Law makes heirs’ property farms eligible to receive county committee farm identification numbers. Both provisions will assist with un-tangling titles and improve access to farm programs. |

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* = aligns with FBLE recommendations  | Updated to reflect final H.R. 2 signed by President Trump on 12/20/18