

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2025 FARM BILL PRIORITIES



The Farm Bill affects everyone—from the water we drink, to the food we eat, to the health of communities across the country. To meet the moment, the next Farm Bill must live up to its potential as a **clean water, public health, and climate resiliency bill**.

To achieve these outcomes for the American people, the Izaak Walton League urges Congress to adopt a Farm Bill that incorporates the following priorities.



1

Prioritize soil health across the country.

Incorporate the League's \$100 million State & Tribal Soil Health Grant Program into the Farm Bill

- Drive innovation by providing matching funds to help states and tribes craft and implement soil health strategies. Eligible functions of the program would include technical assistance, financial assistance, on-farm research, education, outreach and monitoring for soil health.

Modernize crop insurance

- Reinstate USDA's \$5 per acre crop insurance discount for cover crops and direct USDA to test a broader "good farmer discount" that rewards implementation of multiple practices that build soil health—like planting cover crops, diversifying crop rotations, and implementing no-till—with reduced insurance premiums.

Protect America's vital wetlands.

2

Fully fund the Wetland Reserve Easements program

- The Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) program incentivizes willing landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands on their properties and must be robustly funded to fill the gap between resources available and demand from landowners.

Prioritize effective Conservation Compliance

- Conservation Compliance is a critically important pact between taxpayers and farmers. By accepting taxpayer subsidized payments, farmers strike a bargain with the public to protect wetlands that provide numerous benefits. Farmers cannot drain or fill wetlands to produce a crop without violating that bargain. Congress must ensure Conservation Compliance is being enforced effectively and fairly.



3

Invest in proven, popular conservation programs.

Provide long-term funding for conservation to meet growing demand from farmers and ranchers

- Programs like the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are proven to increase beneficial conservation practices across the landscape, improve water quality, bolster soil health, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and mitigate climate change. They are also popular. Roughly two thirds of farmers and ranchers that apply to pursuing conservation through these programs are turned away. Meeting this demand will be an investment that pays off many times over.

Prioritize programs that leverage state, local, and private dollars to deliver carefully targeted conservation benefits

- Programs like the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Partnership, Regional Conservation Partnership Program and Voluntary Public Access Habitat Incentive Program combine federal funds with state and local dollars to deliver conservation benefits in targeted areas with local input and partnerships, multiplying our federal investment.

