

## **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the breadth of policies and politics included in the federal multi-year food and farm omnibus authorizing legislation known as the Farm Bill. Congress passed the latest iteration of the 5-year farm bill in December 2018, and it is scheduled to expire in 2023. The reauthorization process in 2018 featured yet another partisan, difficult debate that was resolved in the wake of Republicans losing their House majority in the mid-terms.

In addition to reviewing the major policy components of the bill regarding farm safety net, conservation, nutrition, and food policies, this course will also demonstrate the depth with which the modern farm bill reaches with impacts on farmers, private farmland, natural resources, workers, animals, and consumers. The course will also focus on the politics and process of legislating with historical farm bills as case studies. At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to understand and articulate nuanced views on the substantive policy issues, political dynamics, and legislative processes of the modern Farm Bill.

- *Jonathan Coppess*, professor at the University of Illinois will teach the first week of classes. Jonathan was the Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture during the 2014 Farm Bill negotiations.
- *Chris Adamo*, Vice President Government Affairs, Policy & Partnership, Danone North America; former Staff Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture; former Chief of Staff, White House Council on Environmental Quality.

## **Work and Grading**

There will be one take home final exam that will be due on the Monday, 4 P.M. following the final day of class. The exam will consist of short essay questions that must be completed by the student alone. The exam will be 75% of the grade and the remaining 25% of the grade will be based on class participation.

All readings are generally accessible on the Internet or will be provided to you via email. There are two categories of readings. You are expected to read the assigned readings before the class for which it is assigned. Supplemental readings are optional. If for any reason a particular reading is proving difficult to find, please email us.

## **The following is the schedule and assigned readings:**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Topic; Readings</b>
<i>1</i>	<i>7/26</i>	<i>Introductions &amp; Overview:</i>

		<p><i>General Agricultural Issues</i></p> <p><i>2018 Farm Bill &amp; Process</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coppess, Jonathan W. “High Cotton and the Low Road: An Unraveling Farm Bill Coalition and Its Implications.” <i>Drake J. Agric. L.</i> 23 (2018): 353, <a href="http://aglawjournal.wp.drake.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2019/11/Coppess-Macro-Reprinted.pdf">http://aglawjournal.wp.drake.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2019/11/Coppess-Macro-Reprinted.pdf</a></li> <li>• Coppess, J. "<a href="#">Trying to Reason with History and Policy in a Time of Crisis</a>." <i>farmdoc daily</i> (10):102, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, June 4, 2020.</li> </ul> <p><i>^As will be discussed in class, lectures and materials will begin with the “High Cotton” article and further direction to be determined by discussions in class; topics included below considered options subject to change.</i></p>
2	7/27	<p><i>History and Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan Coppess, <i>Reconciling Farm Commodity Policy</i>, FARM FOUNDATION ISSUE REPORT (Sept. 2017), available at: <a href="https://www.farmfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/IR-Coppess_IssueReportFINAL-Oct-2017.pdf">https://www.farmfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/IR-Coppess_IssueReportFINAL-Oct-2017.pdf</a></li> <li>• Coppess, J. "<a href="#">Reviewing the History and Development of USDA’s Farm Loan Programs, Part 1: Origins</a>." <i>farmdoc daily</i> (11):31, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 4, 2021, <a href="https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2021/03/reviewing-the-history-and-development-of-usdas-farm-loan-programs-part-1-origins.html">https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2021/03/reviewing-the-history-and-development-of-usdas-farm-loan-programs-part-1-origins.html</a></li> <li>• Coppess, J. "<a href="#">Reviewing the History and Development of USDA Farm Loans, Part 2: 1937 to 1946</a>." <i>farmdoc daily</i> (11):36, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 11, 2021, <a href="https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2021/03/reviewing-the-history-and-development-of-usda-farm-loans-part-2-1937-to-1946.html">https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2021/03/reviewing-the-history-and-development-of-usda-farm-loans-part-2-1937-to-1946.html</a></li> <li>• Coppess, J. "<a href="#">The History and Development of USDA Farm Loan Programs, Part 3: 1946 to 1961</a>." <i>farmdoc daily</i> (11):46, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 25, 2021, <a href="https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2021/03/the-history-and-development-of-usda-farm-loan-programs-part-3-1946-to-1961.html">https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2021/03/the-history-and-development-of-usda-farm-loan-programs-part-3-1946-to-1961.html</a>.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional materials to be assigned in class</li> </ul>
3	7/28	<p><i>History and Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coppess, J. "<a href="#">The Conservation Question, Part 5: Seeds of the Soil Bank.</a>" <i>farmdoc daily</i> (10):3, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, January 9, 2020.</li> <li>• Coppess, J. "<a href="#">The Conservation Question, Part 6: Development of the Soil Bank.</a>" <i>farmdoc daily</i> (10):13, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, January 24, 2020.</li> <li>• Coppess, J. "<a href="#">The Conservation Question, Part 7: Losing the Soil Bank.</a>" <i>farmdoc daily</i> (10):31, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 20, 2020.</li> <li>• Additional materials to be assigned in class</li> </ul>
4	7/29	<p><i>History and Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coppess, J. "<a href="#">A Brief Review of the Consequential Seventies.</a>" <i>farmdoc daily</i> (9):99, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 30, 2019.</li> <li>• Coppess, J. and K. Swanson. "<a href="#">The Other Side of the Seventies.</a>" <i>farmdoc daily</i> (9):127, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, July 11, 2019.</li> <li>• Coppess, J. "<a href="#">Reviewing Farm Bill History: Budgets, Boll Weevils and the 1981 Farm Bill.</a>" <i>farmdoc daily</i> (7):49, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 16, 2017.</li> <li>• Additional materials to be assigned in class</li> </ul>
5	8/02	<p><i>Conservation Programs—History &amp; Intro</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History and Outlook for Farm Bill Conservation Programs, Zachary Cain and Stephen Lovejoy, Choices, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2004; <a href="http://www.choicesmagazine.org/2004-4/policy/2004-4-09.htm">http://www.choicesmagazine.org/2004-4/policy/2004-4-09.htm</a></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lichtenberg, Erik, <i>Conservation, the Farm Bill, and U.S. Agricultural Environmental Policy</i>, Choices (3d quarter 2014), <a href="http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/3rd-quarter-2014/conservation-the-farm-bill-and-us-agri-environmental-policy">http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/3rd-quarter-2014/conservation-the-farm-bill-and-us-agri-environmental-policy</a></li> <li>• Congressional Research Service, Agricultural Conservation in the 2018 Farm Bill; <a href="https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45698.pdf">https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45698.pdf</a></li> <li>• (Supplemental) Conservation Title Statutes, Senate Agriculture Committee compilation, Environmental Quality Incentive Program &amp; Conservation Reserve Program: <a href="https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/99-198%20-%20Food%20Security%20Act%20Of%201985.pdf">https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/99-198%20-%20Food%20Security%20Act%20Of%201985.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p><i>Conservation Programs—Budgets &amp; Stakeholders</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coppess, Jonathan, <i>The Next Farm Bill May Present Opportunities for Hybrid Farm-Conservation Policies</i>, Choices (3d quarter 2016), <a href="http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/looking-ahead-to-the-next-farm-bill/the-next-farm-bill-may-present-opportunities-for-hybrid-farm-conservation-policies">http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/looking-ahead-to-the-next-farm-bill/the-next-farm-bill-may-present-opportunities-for-hybrid-farm-conservation-policies</a></li> <li>• Nat’l Sustainable Ag. Coal.: NSAC’s Blog, <i>Path to the 2018 Farm Bill: Conservation</i>, Mar. 14, 2017, <a href="http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/path-to-2018-farm-bill-conservation/">http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/path-to-2018-farm-bill-conservation/</a></li> <li>• See National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition’s comments on the 2018 Farm Bill: <a href="https://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FINAL-DIGITAL-Impact-of-2018-Farm-Bill-Provisions-on-Soil-Health.pdf">https://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FINAL-DIGITAL-Impact-of-2018-Farm-Bill-Provisions-on-Soil-Health.pdf</a></li> <li>• See Environmental Working Group’s comments on the 2018 Farm Bill: <a href="https://www.ewg.org/agmag/2018/06/greenest-farm-bill-ever">https://www.ewg.org/agmag/2018/06/greenest-farm-bill-ever</a> &amp; <a href="https://www.ewg.org/agmag/2018/12/let-s-drink-farm-bill">https://www.ewg.org/agmag/2018/12/let-s-drink-farm-bill</a></li> </ul>
6	8/03	<p><i>Wrap-up on Conservation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review statute for Environmental Quality Incentives Program: <a href="https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/99-198%20-%20Food%20Security%20Act%20Of%201985.pdf">https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/99-198%20-%20Food%20Security%20Act%20Of%201985.pdf</a></li> </ul>

		<p><a href="#">%20Food%20Security%20Act%20Of%201985.pdf</a> (pages 79-94).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Conservation Partnership Program &amp; How to Apply; <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp/</a></li> </ul> <p><i>Nutrition Programs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2018 Farm Bill Primer: SNAP &amp; Nutrition Programs: <a href="https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IF11087.pdf">https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IF11087.pdf</a></li> <li>• Eligibility &amp; Requirements Overview: <a href="https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-quick-guide-to-snap-eligibility-and-benefits">https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-quick-guide-to-snap-eligibility-and-benefits</a></li> <li>• Center for Budget and Policy Priorities’ overview of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: <a href="https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/policybasics-foodstamps.pdf">https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/policybasics-foodstamps.pdf</a></li> <li>• Compare w/ <a href="https://www.heritage.org/hunger-and-food-programs/report/snap-reform-act-offers-sound-basis-welfare-policy">https://www.heritage.org/hunger-and-food-programs/report/snap-reform-act-offers-sound-basis-welfare-policy</a> to <a href="https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/house-farm-bill-would-increase-food-insecurity-and-hardship">https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/house-farm-bill-would-increase-food-insecurity-and-hardship</a></li> </ul> <p><i>Nutrition Outcomes/Debates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNAP Choice or Restrictions: <a href="https://bipartisanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/BPC-Health-Leading-With-Nutrition.pdf">https://bipartisanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/BPC-Health-Leading-With-Nutrition.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/pros-and-cons-of-restricting-snap-purchases/">https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/pros-and-cons-of-restricting-snap-purchases/</a></li> <li>• SNAP Incentives: <a href="https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/advocacy/fini/">https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/advocacy/fini/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://fairfoodnetwork.org/projects/double-up-food-bucks/">https://fairfoodnetwork.org/projects/double-up-food-bucks/</a></li> <li>• (Supplemental on current health benefits) <a href="https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/1-17-18fa.pdf">https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/1-17-18fa.pdf</a></li> </ul>
7	8/04	<p><i>Local Foods, Fruit &amp; Veg</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialty Crop Primer: <a href="https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11317">https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11317</a></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRS Local Foods Overview 2016: <a href="https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44390.pdf">https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44390.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://modernfarmer.com/2019/01/congress-finally-passed-a-new-farm-bill-and-it-continues-to-pay-homage-to-the-cult-of-corn-and-soy/">https://modernfarmer.com/2019/01/congress-finally-passed-a-new-farm-bill-and-it-continues-to-pay-homage-to-the-cult-of-corn-and-soy/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/2018-farm-bill-local-agriculture-market-program/">https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/2018-farm-bill-local-agriculture-market-program/</a></li> <li>• (Supplemental) <a href="https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp">https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp</a></li> </ul> <p><i>National Organic Program &amp; Organic Farming</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the National Organic Program: <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/overview/organic/">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/overview/organic/</a></li> <li>• 2018 Highlights: <a href="https://ota.com/sites/default/files/indexed_files/USEOrganicTradeAssociation_FarmBillPriorities_Summary.pdf">https://ota.com/sites/default/files/indexed_files/USEOrganicTradeAssociation_FarmBillPriorities_Summary.pdf</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.ewg.org/agmag/2018/12/2018-farm-bill-big-win-organic-food">https://www.ewg.org/agmag/2018/12/2018-farm-bill-big-win-organic-food</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://civileats.com/2018/05/15/what-could-the-next-farm-bill-mean-for-the-organic-program/">https://civileats.com/2018/05/15/what-could-the-next-farm-bill-mean-for-the-organic-program/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.nationalorganiccoalition.org/farm-bill">https://www.nationalorganiccoalition.org/farm-bill</a></li> <li>• 2021 Priorities for President Biden: <a href="https://ota.com/transition">https://ota.com/transition</a></li> </ul>
8	8/05	<p><i>Conservation Compliance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breggin and Myers, <i>Subsidies with Responsibilities</i>, available at: <a href="https://harvardelr.com/2013/08/08/subsidies-with-responsibilities-placing-stewardship-and-disclosure-conditions-on-government-payments-to-large-scale-commodity-crop-operations/">https://harvardelr.com/2013/08/08/subsidies-with-responsibilities-placing-stewardship-and-disclosure-conditions-on-government-payments-to-large-scale-commodity-crop-operations/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.farmbilllaw.org/2018/02/26/conservation-compliance-linchpin-soil-health-water-quality/">http://www.farmbilllaw.org/2018/02/26/conservation-compliance-linchpin-soil-health-water-quality/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.farmbilllaw.org/2018/03/15/conservation-compliance-weak-enforcement-loss-taxpayers-environment/">http://www.farmbilllaw.org/2018/03/15/conservation-compliance-weak-enforcement-loss-taxpayers-environment/</a></li> </ul>

- <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2017/july/conservation-compliance-in-the-crop-insurance-era/>

*Wrap-Up & Review*

- Climate 21 Project—USDA: <https://climate21.org/usda/>
- Marion Nestle, *Utopian Dream: A New Farm Bill*, in *Dissent* (2016) available at: <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/utopian-dream-a-new-farm-bill>
- Nestle, Marion, “The farm bill drove me insane,” *Politico*, Mar. 17, 2016, available at <http://www.politico.com/agenda/story/2016/03/farm-bill-congress-usda-food-policy-000070>.
- Blake Hurst, *The Omnivore’s Delusion: Against the Agri-Intellectuals*, (July 2009) available at: <https://www.aei.org/articles/the-omnivores-delusion-against-the-agri-intellectuals/>

*Supplemental on Regenerative Agriculture*

- <https://rodaleinstitute.org/why-organic/organic-basics/regenerative-organic-agriculture/>
- <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2020.577723/full>