

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the breadth of policies and programs 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.

- *Chris Adamo*, Vice President Public Affairs & Regenerative Agriculture, Danone North America; former Staff Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture; former Chief of Staff, White House Council on Environmental Quality.
- *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.

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.

#	Date	Topic; Readings
WEEK ONE		
1	7/24	<p><i>Introduction & Overview of Current Events.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder discussion & political overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2023/02/a-view-of-the-2023-farm-bill-at-the-starting-line-in-the-senate.html; https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2023/02/a-view-of-the-2023-farm-bill-at-the-starting-line-in-the-house.html. Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and the Farm Bill Debt Limit Negotiations, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and the Farm Bill (https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2023/06/reviewing-the-debt-limit-deal.html). Coppess & Adamo, Farm Foundation Issue Report, “Could Climate Change Produce a Revolutionary Farm Bill in 2023?” (September 2022), available: https://www.farmfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Farm-Foundation-September-2022-Issue-Report-on-2023-Farm-Bill.pdf. <p><i>Introduction to the Farm Bill; Commodities & Crop Insurance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnson, Renee and Jim Monke, “What is the Farm Bill?” Congressional Research Service, RS22131 (updated February 22, 2023), available: https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/download/RS/RS22131/RS22131.pdf. Other Background Farm Bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2023/02/a-view-of-the-2023-farm-bill-from-the-cbo-baseline.html; https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2023/03/a-deeper-dive-into-the-february-2023-cbo-baseline-title-i-commodities-programs.html.
2	7/25	<p><i>Farm Bill: History & Political Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coppess, Jonathan. <i>The Fault Lines of Farm Policy: A Legislative and Political History of the Farm Bill</i> (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2018) [<i>electronic copies will be provided</i>].
3	7/26	<p><i>Farm Bill: History & Development (cont.).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, http://aglawjournal.wp.drake.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2019/11/Coppess-Macro-Reprinted.pdf.
4	7/27	<p><i>The 2023 Farm Bill: discussion and classroom exercise.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congressional Budget Office, May 2023 Baseline: https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2023-05/51317-2023-05-usda_0.pdf or https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2023-05/51317-2023-05-usda.xlsx.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Crane-Droesch, Elizabeth Marshall, Stephanie Rosch, Anne Riddle, Joseph Cooper, and Steven Wallander. Climate Change and Agricultural Risk Management Into the 21st Century, ERR-266, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, July 2019, https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/93547/err-266.pdf?v=3465.3.
WEEK TWO		
5	8/02	<p><i>Conservation Programs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and Outlook for Farm Bill Conservation Programs, Zachary Cain and Stephen Lovejoy, Choices, 4th Quarter 2004; http://www.choicesmagazine.org/2004-4/policy/2004-4-09.htm Lichtenberg, Erik, <i>Conservation, the Farm Bill, and U.S. Agri-Environmental Policy</i>, Choices (3d quarter 2014), http://www.choicesmagazine.org/choices-magazine/theme-articles/3rd-quarter-2014/conservation-the-farm-bill-and-us-agri-environmental-policy Coppess, Jonathan, <i>The Next Farm Bill May Present Opportunities for Hybrid Farm-Conservation Policies</i>, Choices (3d quarter 2016), 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 Congressional Research Service, Agricultural Conservation in the 2023 Farm Bill; https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47478/1 Environmental Working Group; Climate change isn't high priority for \$1.2 billion USDA farm stewardship program Environmental Working Group (ewg.org) See Testimony for U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture Hearing on Conservation (April 20, 2023); Conservation in the Farm Bill: Making Co... Senate Committee On Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry; (please read testimony of Trout Unlimited and Flickner Farms, others optional) <p><i>(Supplemental)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review statute for Environmental Quality Incentives Program: 16 U.S. Code Subpart a - environmental quality incentives program U.S. Code US Law LII / Legal Information Institute (cornell.edu) Regional Conservation Partnership Program & How to Apply; https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp/USDA Climate Smart Commodities; Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities USDA.
6	8/03	<p><i>Nutrition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018 Farm Bill Primer: SNAP & Nutrition Programs: https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IF11087.pdf

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNAP & Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023; SNAP Provisions in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov) • Eligibility & Requirements Overview: https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-quick-guide-to-snap-eligibility-and-benefits • Center for Budget and Policy Priorities’ overview of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/policybasics-foodstamps.pdf • See Overview of 2023 Advocates’ Proposals: SNAP/Farm Bill - Food Research & Action Center (frac.org) • Compare w/ SNAP, Work, and Opportunity The Heritage Foundation to https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/house-farm-bill-would-increase-food-insecurity-and-hardship • See Bipartisan Policy Center’s 2023 recommendations: https://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/strengthening-snap-opportunities-in-the-2023-farm-bill/ & Policy Basics: policybasics-foodstamps-rev6-25-19.docx (cbpp.org) <p><i>Nutrition Outcomes/Debates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNAP Choice or Restrictions: https://bipartisanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/BPC-Health-Leading-With-Nutrition.pdf, and https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/pros-and-cons-of-restricting-snap-purchases/ • SNAP Incentives: https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/advocacy/fini/; and review https://fairfoodnetwork.org/projects/double-up-food-bucks/ <p><i>(Supplemental)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center on Budget Policy Priorities on current health benefits: https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/1-17-18fa.pdf
7	8/04	<p><i>Local Foods, Fruit & Veg</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty Crop Primer: https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11317 • Congressional Research Service overview on local food and other assorted farm bill programs: https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46538 • See Specialty Crop Alliance 2023 Priorities: Priorities - Farmbill Alliance • Modern Farmer 2018 Farm Bill critique: 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/ • National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition overview of local foods programs 2018: https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/2018-farm-bill-local-agriculture-market-program/ <p><i>(Supplemental)</i></p>

		<p>USDA Grant Overview: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfp</p> <p><i>National Organic Program & Organic Farming</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the National Organic Program: https://nationalaglawcenter.org/overview/organic/ • 2018 Highlights for Organic Agriculture: https://ota.com/sites/default/files/indexed_files/USEOrganicTradeAssociation_FarmBillPriorities_Summary.pdf, and https://www.ewg.org/agmag/2018/12/2018-farm-bill-big-win-organic-food • Civil Eats overview of 2018 debate on organic agriculture: https://civileats.com/2018/05/15/what-could-the-next-farm-bill-mean-for-the-organic-program/ • National Organic Coalition & 2023 Priorities: https://www.nationalorganiccoalition.org/farm-bill • Review H.R. 2918 & Organic Trade Association's proposal for 2023. <p>(Supplemental)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Critical To-do List for Organic Agriculture: https://sustainability-innovation.asu.edu/food/wp-content/uploads/sites/39/2021/06/Organic-Report-2021-2.pdf
8	8/05	<p><i>Conservation Compliance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Compliance in 2018: http://www.farmbilllaw.org/2018/02/26/conservation-compliance-linchpin-soil-health-water-quality/ • Conservation Compliance & Crop Insurance: https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2017/july/conservation-compliance-in-the-crop-insurance-era/ • R Street Free Markets, Real Solutions; Final-Short-No.-75.pdf (rstreet.org) <p>(Supplemental)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Compliance: Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands Provisions Natural Resources Conservation Service (usda.gov) <p><i>Regenerative Agriculture & Policy Recommendations (for general review)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition 2023 Policy Recommendations : 2023-Farm-Bill-Platform.pdf (sustainableagriculture.net) • Regenerative agriculture needs a reckoning The Counter; https://thecounter.org/regenerative-agriculture-racial-equity-climate.change-farming-environmental-issues/The_Role_of_Federal_Policy_at_the_Nexus_of_Climate_Food_and_Water: https://climatefoodag.org/wp-

		<p>content/uploads/sites/9/2021/02/CFAD-POVPaper_AdamoKnight_Final.pdf</p> <p><i>Wrap-Up & Looking Forward to 2023</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marion Nestle, <i>Utopian Dream: A New Farm Bill</i>, in Dissent (2016) available at: https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/utopian-dream-a-new-farm-bill • Blake Hurst, <i>The Omnivore's Delusion: Against the Agri-Intellectuals</i>, (July 2009) available at: https://www.aei.org/articles/the-omnivores-delusion-against-the-agri-intellectuals/