

2023

Farm Bill Priorities

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5/17/24



NATIONAL Aquaculture ASSOCIATION

About Us

Incorporated in 1991
15 Technical Committees
22 Board of Directors
Association of Associations
Federal Advocacy and
Industry Promotion

Our Mission

To provide a unified national voice for aquaculture that ensures its sustainability, protects its profitability, and encourages its development in an environmentally responsible manner.

2023 Advocacy in Action!



29 ^{↑11%}
Congressional
Meetings

9

Federal Agency
Meetings



35 ^{↑40%}
Speaking
Engagements

32

Public Comment
Letters



138
Member News
Releases

ADVOCACY TEAMS



PARTNERS

30+ aquaculture associations
US Aquaculture Society
American Fisheries Society
Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies
American Chemistry Council
Subcommittee on Aquaculture

COALITIONS

Invasive Species
US Association of Reptile Keepers
Pet Advocacy Network
Aquatic Drug Approval Coalition
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Animal Agriculture Alliance



ADVOCACY TACTICS

THE FARMERS PERSPECTIVE

Factual Information Source

Published and grey lit papers

Website

Media (print and social)

National, Regional, State and Species

Associations coordination

FEDERAL AND NGOs

Federal and NGO Committees

Formal Membership/Leadership

Peanut Gallery

NAA “Walks on the Hill”

Connect as constituents

One-page fact sheets

Congressional NAA Updates

ADVOCACY TARGETS

CONGRESS - 100 SENATORS AND 435 REPRESENTATIVES

Key Senate Committees

Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry

Appropriations

Commerce, Science & Technology

Environment and Public Works

Health, Labor & Pensions

Key House Committees

Agriculture

Appropriations

Energy and Commerce (Health
Subcommittee)

Natural Resources

Transportation and Infrastructure



TARGETS – 26 Congressional Acts Apply to Aquaculture (so far)

Agricultural Marketing Act, Animal Health Protection Act, Animal Medicinal Use Drug Clarification Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Federal Meat Inspection Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), Food Safety Modernization Act, Lacey Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Protection Act, Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, National Marine Sanctuary Act, National Invasive Species Act, Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Triploid Grass Carp Certification Act.

FARM BILL 101

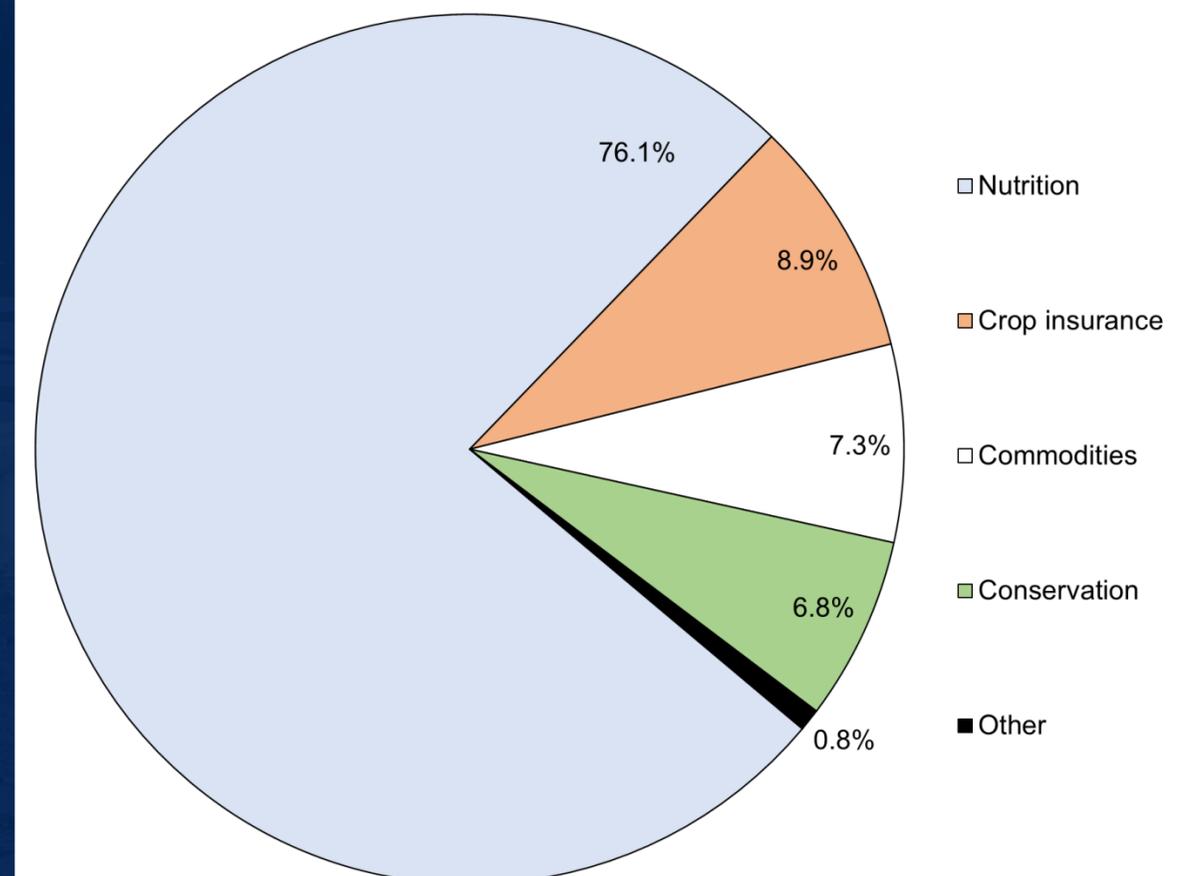
THE DETAILS

Omnibus agriculture spending package covering ag. and food policy.

USDA authorities, program improvements and appropriation levels.

Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 is current version with \$867.2 billion in funding.

Projected outlays under the 2018 Farm Act, 2019–23



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service based on Congressional Budget Office, Direct Spending Effects for the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, December 11, 2018.

FARM BILL ADVOCACY

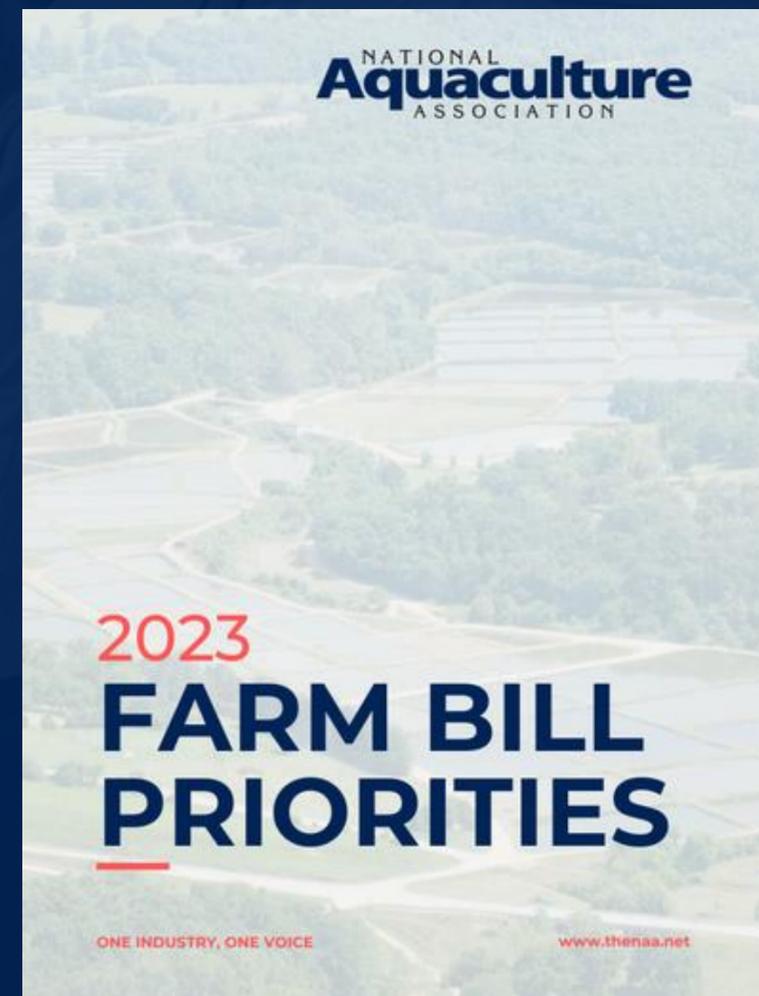
PRIORITIZATION

Developed by Legislative and Government Relations Committee and Board of Directors.

NAA had 29 Congressional Meetings in 2023
Walk the Hill.

NAA visits DC routinely for specific issues.

42 aquaculture bills in Congress!



Waive Adjusted Gross Income
Limitation for ELAP

Increase Funding for USDA
Regional Aquaculture Centers

Improve Aquaculture Focus
within USDA

Amend the Migratory Bird
Treaty Act

Update the Endangered
Species Act to
Strengthen Species Recovery

Oppose Presumptive Prohibitions
on Nonnative Species Trade

Require Public Input for any
Changes to Animal Product
Jurisdiction

Expand USDA Disaster Assistance
Programs

Expand Eligibility for the
Agriculture and Food Research
Initiative

Create Organic Label for
Aquaculture

Sustaining Healthy Ecosystems, Livelihoods and Local Seafood Act

H.R. 3951/S. 2211

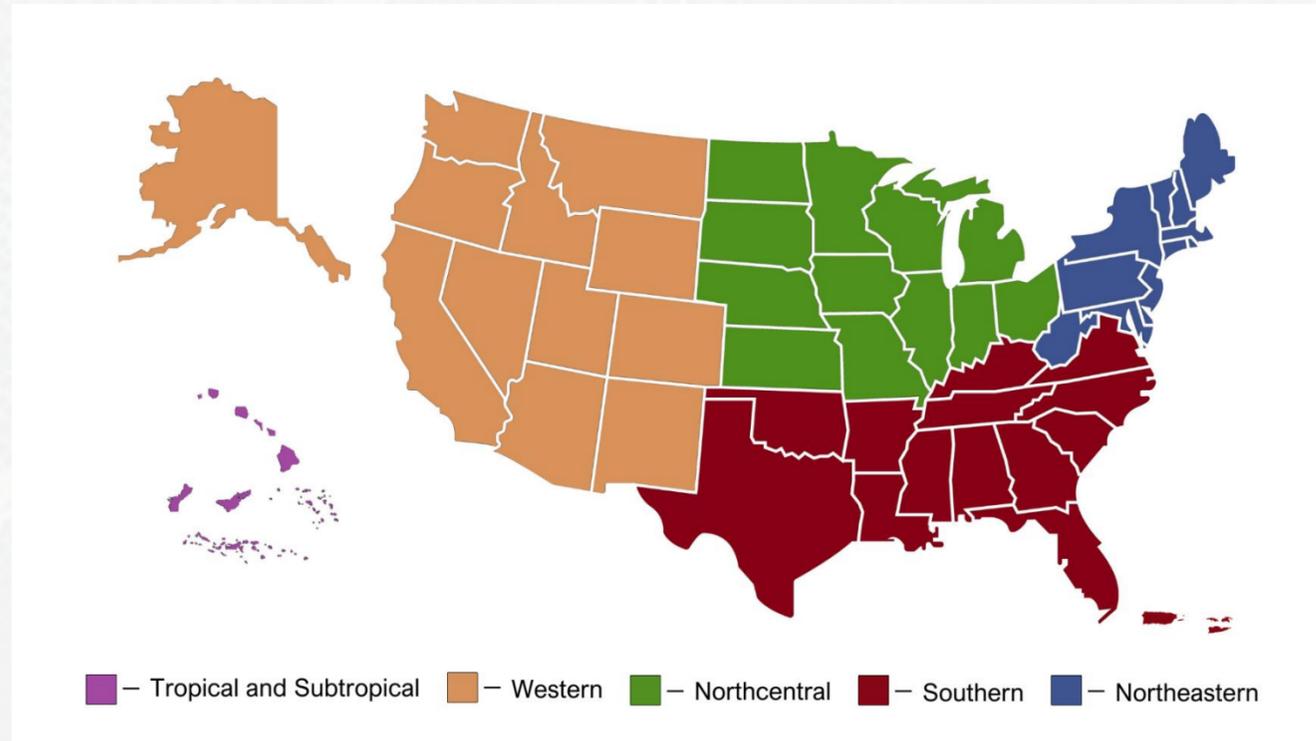
What does the bill do?

Creates an *Office of Aquaculture* within the USDA and an advisory committee with clear authority to coordinate federal improvements.

- Aquaculture is Agriculture!
- Dramatic need for coordination within USDA programs and among the federal agencies.
- Expand eligibility for aquaculture to traditional ag. programs.
- Create Organic Standards.
- USDA APHIS should regulate biotechnologies.

Promoting American Competition in Research Act

H.R. 3542/S. 2619



A REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTER PROGRAM:

A UNIQUE, FARMER-DRIVEN PROGRAM THAT ADVANCES U.S. AQUACULTURE



NATIONAL
Aquaculture
ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2023
USDA-NIFA
2021-100-1005-200-00058#



Promoting American Competition in Research Act

H.R. 3542/S. 2619

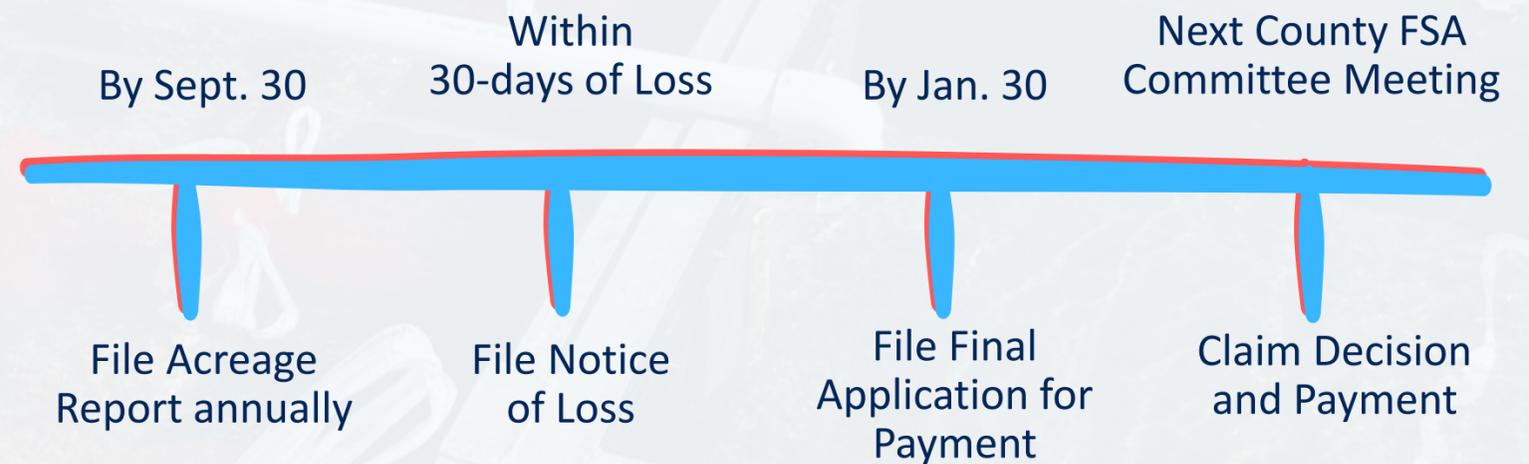
What does the bill do?

Increases authorization for USDA's Regional Aquaculture Centers from \$5mil to \$15mil. Funding would come later...

- Regional Aquaculture Centers support critical aquaculture extension and research services.
- Regional Aquaculture Center's are driven by industry.
- Funding has not increased since 2013.
- 2017 analysis showed 37-fold return on investment.

ELAP - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey-Bee and Farm-Raised Fish Program

- No fee!
- Specific natural, catastrophic disasters determined by the Secretary
- Normal mortality not covered.
- Payment up to 75% to 90% of crop loss.
- May 2021 – ELAP expanded to almost all of U.S. aquaculture.



Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act

H.R. 4127/S. 2704

What does the bill do?

Waive the \$900k Adjusted Gross Income limitation on USDA programs (ELAP) for farmers that derive 75% of their income from farming.

- Does not account for inflation, rising costs, long growing cycles and capital-intensive nature of aquaculture.
- Restricts program relevance for many farmers.
- Supply chain depends on larger farms for hatchery production and processing, distribution.

Sound Science for Farmers Act

S.3719

What does the bill do?

Creates accountability and scientific quality standards for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assessments, risk evaluations, and regulatory actions for existing chemicals.

- On October 30, 2023, the EPA proposed changes to its chemical risk evaluation framework that undermine peer review and scientific standards.
- Over the next two years, the EPA intends to issue Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessments and risk evaluations and regulations for many common aquaculture products.

ON OUR RADAR

USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES

NAA's Aquatic Animal Health Committee is coordinating closely:

- Improve handling of export health endorsements.
- Challenges with finding veterinarians.
- Inspection and approval of Registered Aquaculture Export Facilities (RAEF).

NAA ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- 6 specific-issue letters in 2023.
- Hosted APHIS VS Executive Director of Strategy and Policy at Board meeting in February.
- Requested the April 6th webinar regarding RAEF changes.
- Met with APHIS leaders in DC on April 26th.

ON OUR RADAR

USDA APHIS VETERINARY SERVICES

Agency Recommendations

- Checking their on-line resource IRegs frequently for Updates.
- Apply for and renew RAEF at least 3 months in advance.
- Reach out to APHIS Aquatic Trade staff with any questions or concerns.

RECENT CHANGES

- New export health certificates.
- Effective May 6, APHIS charges user fees for full time required to complete export facility packages.
- Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) notice of rulemaking coming in early 2024.

ON OUR RADAR

STOP LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2023 - H.R. 4922/ S. 1614

No flexibility for a regional approach – risk is not equal across the US.

White-list approach is illogical, unscientific and impractical.

Currently FWS port officials distinguish 785 Injurious species, 693 ESA species, 6,006 CITES listed species. A *white-list* would potentially increase to 204,614 species!

NAA Supports: Unbiased, science-based risk analysis processes, a comprehensive public database of nonnative species regulations, and funding to states and tribes to do this work.

STILL...ON OUR RADAR

CREATE ORGANIC LABEL FOR AQUACULTURE

U.S. farmers compete with imports that are labelled as organic under foreign standards since USA has none.

19 years and counting! It's a long story...

2005 rule dev. began by Aquaculture Workgroup

2010 standards recommended to NOSB and stalled

2015 rules sent to OMB and remain in purgatory awaiting release for public comment.



NATIONAL
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ASSOCIATION

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**Support U.S. Aquaculture
Join the NAA!**

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