

Recommendations for Consideration in the 2023 Farm Bill

We see tremendous opportunity to ensure practical and lasting impacts to the long-term productivity and resilience of farm and forest lands and the prosperity of rural communities. Drawing from the comprehensive policy report by the BPC Farm and Forest Carbon Solutions Task Force, BPC's Energy Program has identified 12 priority areas of focus for consideration in the 2023 Farm Bill.



Relating to
Farming & Forestry



Relating to
Forestry



Relating to
Livestock

Conservation (Title II)



1. Maintain conservation funding and core Title II program structure as locally driven, voluntary, and incentive based.



2. Modernize and streamline key processes at the Natural Resources Conservation Service:

- Certification of third-party technical service providers.
- Conservation practice approvals.



3. Direct NRCS to implement cross-boundary rangeland conservation and restoration partnerships.

Research (Title VII)

4. Bolster the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's support to land-grant universities for integrative research-education-extension investments in:



- Tree seed and seedlings supply chain, including construction and improvement of agricultural research and nurseries infrastructure.



- Agricultural supply chain sustainability, including quantification, monitoring, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas benefits.



5. Create a NIFA pilot partnership program for the Cooperative Extension System to expand its partnerships with the private sector.



6. Empower 1890 Centers of Excellence and 1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges to prepare students for careers in sustainable and climate-smart agricultural production.



Forestry (Title VIII)

7. Authorize the U.S. Forest Service to provide loan and loan guarantee financing for nursery infrastructure, seed collection and storage, as well as technical assistance to state and tribal nurseries.
- 8.P Provide greater funding flexibility to better enable cross-jurisdictional hazardous fuels projects by:
 - Authorizing a mix of existing hazardous fuels funding sources across federal agencies to be used in cost sharing agreements.
 - Increasing the hazardous fuels program authorization level.
9. Authorize the USFS Wood Innovations Grants Program to provide loans and loan guarantees, streamline match requirements, and fund higher education programs focused on innovative wood products.



Miscellaneous (Title XII)

10. Modernize USDA's data collection, security, storage, and access; improve data on conservation practices and farm productivity while maintaining producer confidentiality; and expand access to precision agriculture data and technology solutions.



Other BPC Energy Program Priorities

Although outside the scope of our Farm and Forest Carbon Solutions Task Force, the BPC Energy Program recommends the following policy priorities to advance American innovation in the bioeconomy.

11. Modify the Biobased Market (Biopreferred) Program (Energy Title IX) to expand and improve product labeling, procurement incentives, and data and reporting systems.
12. Strengthen USDA research, innovation, and commercialization programs (Research Title VII) in:
 - Advanced research for agricultural technologies, research tools, and products.
 - Regional biochar research networks to investigate the beneficial end-uses of biochar and their climate and economic benefits.

