

2023

Farm Bill Priorities

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3/23/24



NATIONAL Aquaculture ASSOCIATION

About Us

Incorporated in 1991

15 Technical Committees

22 Board of Directors

Association of Associations

Federal Advocacy

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

Public Comment
Letters



32



138
Member News
Releases

FARM BILL 101

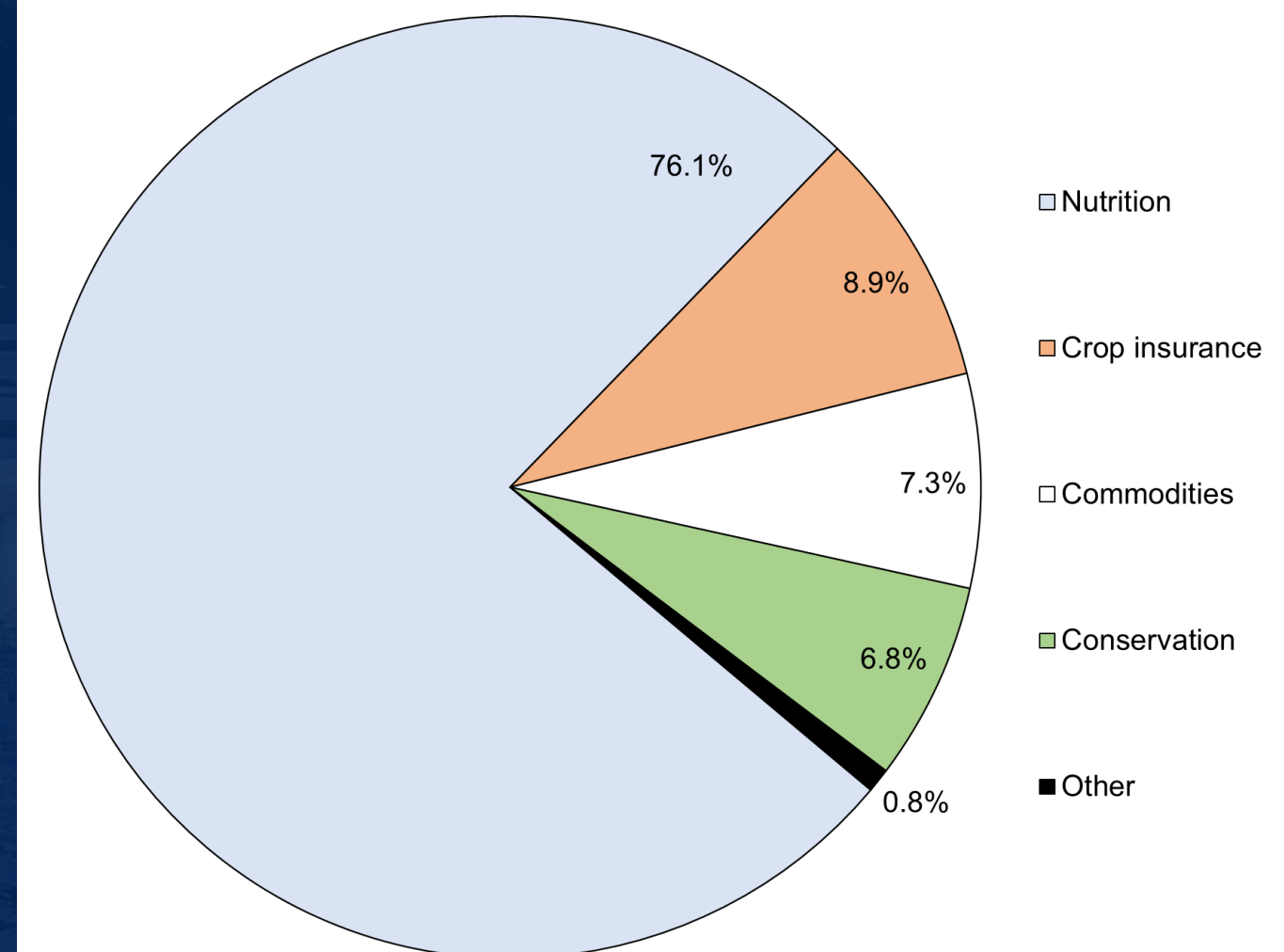
THE DETAILS

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.

~42 aquaculture bills in Congress!



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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

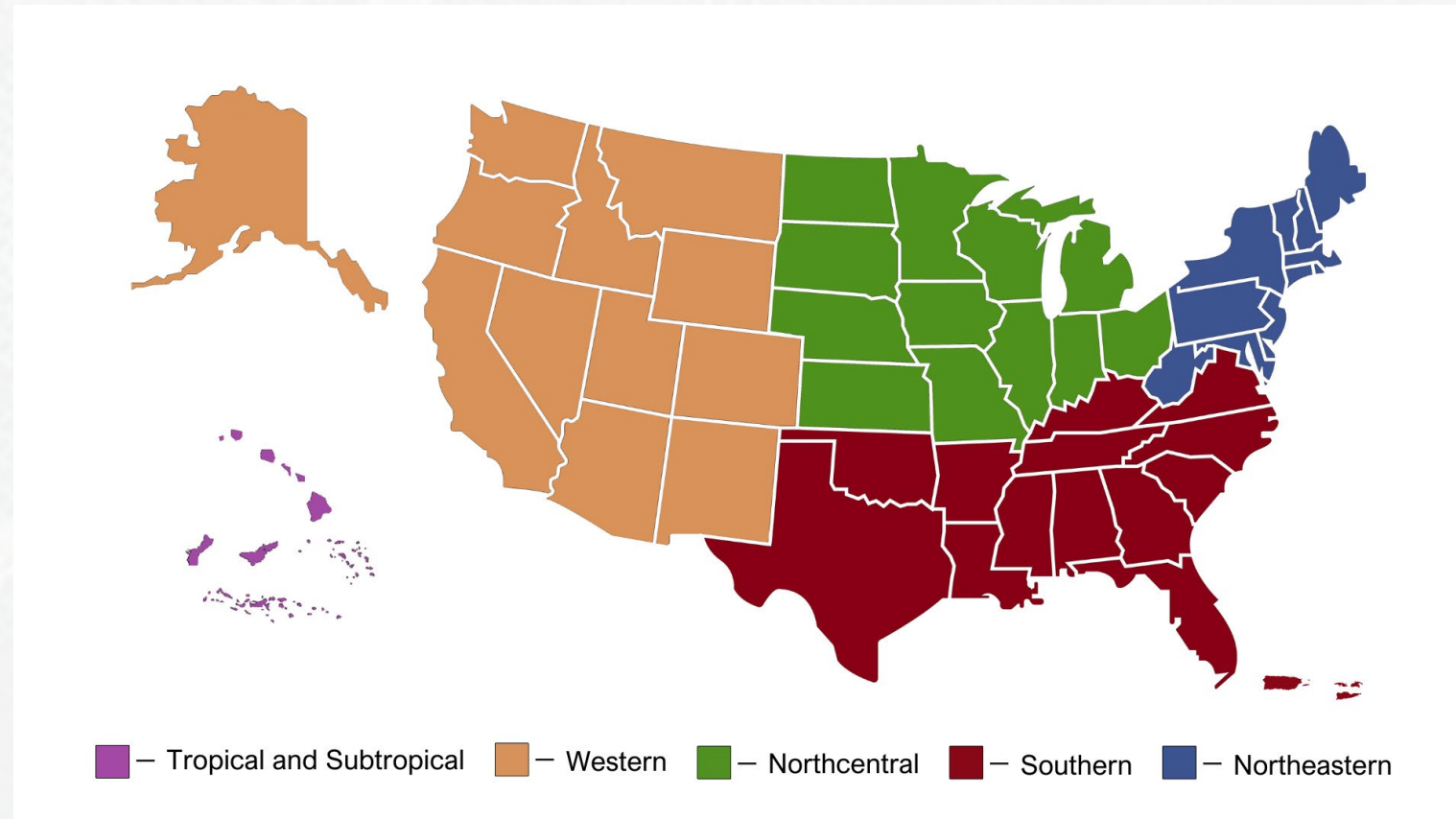
What does the bill do?

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.

Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act

H.R. 4127/S. 2704

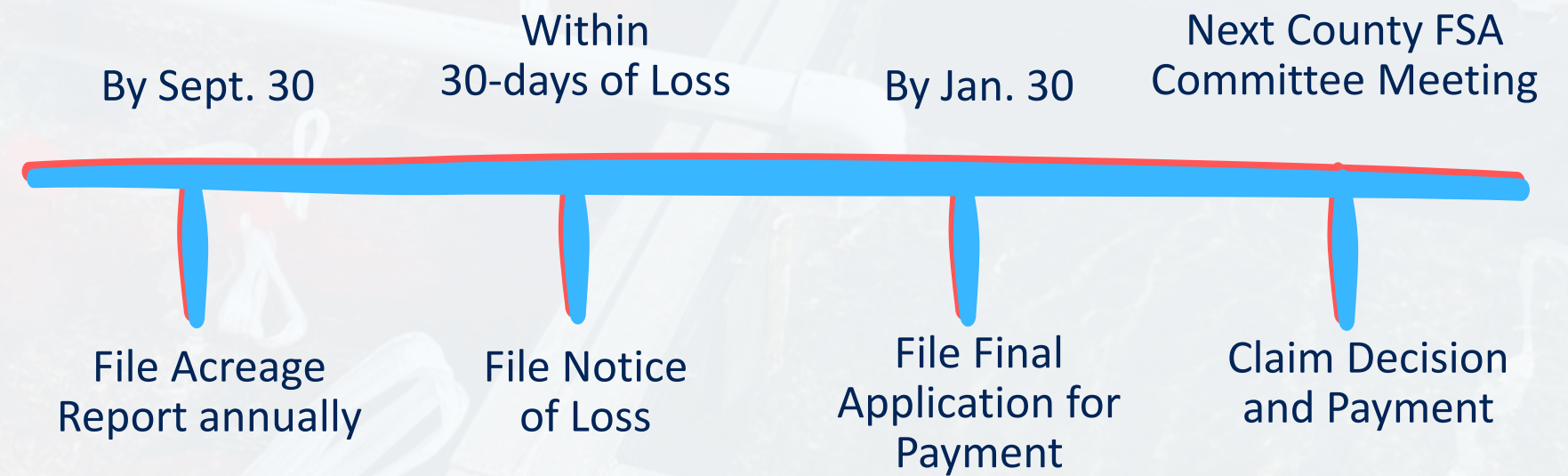
What does the bill do?

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.

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.



Drought Assistance Improvement Act/CRAWDAD Act

H.R.5691/S.3836

What does the bill do?

Allows drought to be an eligible adverse weather event under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey-bees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

- Drought can trigger a variety of direct and pernicious aquatic animal impacts.
- Drought increases water temperature, reduces surface and groundwater availability, increasing salinity.
- Drought is readily measurable, length and intensity, using local weather or coastal water quality reporting.

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.

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

Sturgeon Conservation and Sustainability Act

H.R.6393/S.2870

What does the bill do?

Amends the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to create a captive-bred exemption for American farmed sturgeon.

- In the absence of a captive-bred exemption, the pending Endangered Species Act listing of several farmed sturgeon species will put numerous U.S. farmers out of business.
- Sturgeon farming reduces poaching, contributes to wild conservation and helps endangered populations recover.

ON OUR RADAR

STOP LACEY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2023

- H.R. 4922/ S. 1614

Secretary of Agriculture and Interior (since 1960) have authority to ban importation of animals *“injurious to human beings, to the interests of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, or to wildlife or the wildlife resources of the United States.”*

Federal violation to transport, possess, import/export, sell wildlife, fish and plants in violation of federal, state, tribal, foreign laws. Currently 50 sovereign states and tribes prohibit or restrict species in interstate trade as appropriate.



ON OUR RADAR

WHAT DOES THE 2023 LACEY AMENDMENT PROPOSE?

Allows Secretary of Interior to prohibit the interstate movement of nonnative or native animals within the continental United States.

Empowers the Secretary of Interior to list a species under emergency rule for a three-year period without due process.

Creates an approved list of species for importation. “*White List*” approach means a presumptive prohibition on species.

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. White list would potentially increase to 204,614 species!

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

ALSO ON OUR RADAR

AMEND THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

From 1998 – 2016, an Aquaculture Depredation Order allowed USDA Wildlife Services delegated authority.

2014 lawsuit overturned the order and all authority went back to USFWS in March 2016.

Cormorant populations increasing for 30-years, 8.5% from 2005-2015. Amend MBTA to permanently invest Secretary of Agriculture with authority to issue depredations permits for agriculture.

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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Check out our Legislative
Priorities Page!

NationalAquaculture.org