# ND18 – Farm Bill

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### 1NC – Tax Returns

#### Farm bill passes now in the lame duck session – top priority and Republicans are willing to compromise

**Karnowski 11/12** Steve Karnowski,, 11-12-2018, "Democrats' House takeover spurs hope for farm bill this year," Wisconsin State Farmer, <https://www.wisfarmer.com/story/news/2018/11/12/house-gop-likely-pass-compromise-farm-bill-before-end-year/1985218002/> OHS-AT

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Prospects have improved for Congress to pass a bipartisan farm bill before the end of the year after Democrats secured the House majority during the midterm elections, key lawmakers and other experts said.

Work requirements for food stamps, known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, had been the biggest stumbling block holding up an agreement. The version that narrowly passed the House with no Democratic votes includes the tougher rules. The bipartisan version that won easy Senate approval does not, and few Senate Republicans want them.

Observers say it's likely that House Republicans will now be ready to pass a compromise in the upcoming lame duck session rather than starting over in a Democratic-controlled House and risking a result they would like even less.

"There isn't any reason why this thing can't get done," said Rep. Collin Peterson, of Minnesota, the ranking Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee and the likely chairman next year. "The only thing I care about between now and the end of the year is getting this farm bill done."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said a news conference last week, that passing a farm bill is one of his top priorities for the lame duck session, too. McConnell, who like Peterson is on the conference committee that's trying to work out a final deal, said compromise on work requirements is needed.

"That's the part that is a little tricky, but we'll get there," McConnell said.

Farm bills traditionally set federal agricultural and food policy for five years. While they include safety net programs for farmers, nutrition programs including SNAP are most of the spending. The current law expires at the end of the year. While Peterson might have even more influence on shaping the legislation as chairman, he told The Associated Press that he doesn't want to wait, given how hard farmers have been hit by low prices and trade disputes.

"The farmers need certainty," he said. "They're facing some of the toughest times we've had for a long time. The last thing they need is not knowing what the farm bill is going to be."

Republicans would have kept pushing hard for the work requirements if they'd retained control of the House, said Marin Bozic, a professor of applied economics and agricultural policy expert at the University of Minnesota. But the impending Democratic takeover, including Peterson's expected rise to the chairmanship, have changed the dynamics, Bozic said.

Peterson said he spoke this week with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and the current House Agriculture Committee chairman, Michael Conaway, as well as key senators, and those conversations left him optimistic about getting their remaining differences resolved.

Conaway, a Texas Republican, has said little publicly, and his spokeswoman said he was not available for an interview Thursday. But he put out a statement Wednesday that said: "This week's election results don't change the circumstances in farm country. I remain 100 percent committed to completing the farm bill this year."

#### Tax disclosure bills are heavily politicized, cause infighting, and stall legislation

**Nicodemus 2/15** Aaron Nicodemus, February 15, 2018, "New Hampshire Shoots Down Presidential Tax Return Bill," Bloomberg, <https://www.bna.com/new-hampshire-shoots-n57982088850/> OHS-AT

The bill ( S.B. 362) would have required that presidential and vice presidential candidates release three years worth of federal income tax returns, at least 30 days before the election. The returns would have been published on the Secretary of State’s website.

S.B. 362 was voted down 14-10 in the Senate Feb. 15. After holding a hearing on the bill in January, the Senate Committee on Election Law and Internal Affairs declared the bill as “inexpedient to legislate.”

The legislation was issued in reaction to President Donald Trump not releasing his tax returns during his 2016 campaign.

Party-Line Vote

Bill sponsor Sen. Martha Hennessey (D) said she was disappointed, but not surprised, by the party-line vote.

“This is the kind of thing that people are going to turn into a partisan issue, and it really isn’t,” she said. “It’s not an anti-Trump bill. It was meant to provide information on whoever the candidates are. We as the voters lose when we don’t have that information.”

Wyatt Ronan, communications director for the New Hampshire Democratic Party, told Bloomberg Tax that New Hampshire, host of the first-in-the nation primary, “has an obligation to set the right tone on this issue.”

Sen. Regina Birdsell (R) said in a statement that the bill “would place an arbitrary and unnecessary requirement for seeking a place on the ballot” that was “not the New Hampshire way.” Birdsell, chair of the Senate committee that recommended killing the bill, said she suspected the U.S. Supreme Court would have declared the measure unconstitutional.

“It is shameful that our colleagues would rather waste time and energy to play politics over setting aside their differences and focus on solving the real issues facing our state,” she said.

#### Solves global food security

**Flowers 4/4** Kimberly Flowers 18, director of the Global Food Security Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C. Kelsey Bachenberg was a junior researcher with the CSIS Global Food Security Project. The 2018 Farm Bill, Agricultural Research, and Implications for Global Food Security. April 4, 2018. https://www.csis.org/analysis/2018-farm-bill-agricultural-research-and-implications-global-food-security

This year Congress is expected to pass a piece of legislation that deeply affects the lives of all Americans and determines the strategic positioning of the United States in global agriculture for the next five years. The Farm Bill influences the food we eat, how we grow it, and the lives of the farmers who do so. Funding for agricultural research and development (R&D) only makes up a tiny sliver of the Farm Bill’s budget—about 0.2 percent in the 2014 bill—but it has profound consequences for U.S. agricultural competitiveness and global food security. The United States has historically been at the forefront of agricultural science and innovation, but our leadership is slipping: China has been outspending us 2 to 1 on agricultural research since 2013. Q1: What is the Farm Bill, and what does it have to do with agricultural research and development? A1: The first Farm Bill was dominated by farm support programs meant to ease the blow of the Great Depression. Since then it has evolved into an enormous omnibus bill that addresses a wide range of issues, spanning nutrition assistance, rural development, international food aid, and more. The legislation falls under the jurisdiction of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and sparks strong opinions from diverse interest groups ranging from maritime unions to commodity associations. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized a projected $489 billion in mandatory federal spending between 2014 and 2018. Just four of the bill’s 12 titles—nutrition, crop insurance, conservation, and farm commodity support—make up 99 percent of its mandatory authorizations. Funded at over $390 billion, nutrition programming alone accounts for roughly 80 percent of the budget, with the bulk of this funding earmarked for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), previously known as food stamps. In comparison, the portion of the bill that supports agricultural research and extension received $800 million over five years. Despite this small share, these funds determine priorities for agricultural science related to crop diseases and pests, farm animal health, natural resource management, food safety, nutrition, and countless other areas critical to U.S. agricultural and food systems. The Farm Bill is the primary source of federal funding for agricultural science. With these resources, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds the work of its three in-house research agencies—the Agricultural Research Service, the Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service—as well as its extramural research wing, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which funds research through land-grant universities, state agricultural experiment stations, and other institutions at the state and local levels. The 2014 Farm Bill also authorized $200 million to establish the nonprofit Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, which matches federal funding with private-sector donations to award grants for public-private collaborative research partnerships. Q2: What are the trends in U.S. public investment in agricultural R&D that impact our leadership position? A2: Despite a 40 percent return on investment, growth in U.S. public-sector funding for agricultural R&D slowed in the early 1980s, flatlined in the 1990s, and turned negative as of 2011. Inflation-adjusted public investments in agricultural R&D fell by 20 percent between 2008 and 2013. These trends are troubling on their own but even more so in light of the global context. As the United States steadily chipped away at agricultural research funding, rapidly growing economies—like China, India, and Brazil—did the opposite. As a result of these inverse patterns, the U.S. share of global public agricultural R&D investments fell by nearly half between 1960 and 2011, from 20 percent to 11 percent. Meanwhile, China ramped up spending almost eightfold between 1990 and 2013, overtaking the United States as the biggest investor in public agricultural R&D in 2008. U.S. federal funding for agricultural science has also deteriorated relative to other research areas. In 2012, the National Institutes of Health (one of the foremost federal biomedical research centers in the world) outspent USDA nearly 15 to 1 on research and development. There is no question that human health is a high priority for R&D dollars, but ensuring an adequate, healthy, and safe food supply plays a critical part in improving health outcomes. Q3: Why is public agricultural R&D important for U.S. agriculture? A3: American agriculture is competitive because it is productive. U.S. agricultural output grew by a staggering 268 percent from 1949 to 2007. Expanded agricultural production was due almost entirely to productivity growth, a metric for how efficiently inputs (land, labor, and other resources) are turned into outputs (crop and livestock yields), rather than an expansion of our agricultural footprint. R&D, paired with systems that bring discoveries from the laboratory to the field, is the principal driver of productivity growth. American farmers have benefited from a flood of breakthrough technologies and innovations—like high-yielding, drought-tolerant seeds and more efficient equipment—that have transformed farming as we know it. They have experienced first-hand how investments in public R&D can allow them to maintain their competitive edge both at home and abroad. Expanded output also suppresses consumer food prices, with particular benefits for low-income households, who typically spend a greater share of their income on food. U.S. annual agricultural productivity growth peaked at a rate of about 2 percent in the mid-1980s and has been slowing ever since. This is especially concerning in the face of global agriculture’s myriad new challenges: climate change, unfamiliar pests and diseases, and rising production costs, to name a few. Given such threats, U.S. agriculture will require “maintenance research” just to sustain current levels of productivity, let alone boost yields. With continued public-sector R&D divestment, slumping productivity growth is likely to persist. Stagnant productivity has negative implications beyond our domestic food supply. In the long term, losing ground on investments in agricultural R&D to other countries means losing our competitive edge to them, too. Failing to invest in the next generation of scientists would hamstring our scientific workforce well into the future, further diminishing our long-run leadership in global agricultural research. America’s competitive advantage is rooted in being on the cutting edge of scientific discovery. Q4: What are the global implications of U.S. agricultural R&D? A4: The United States has long been a leader in advancing the frontier of agricultural science. American scientists—often in partnership with international research institutions like CGIAR—tackle issues relevant to both domestic and global agriculture. Transformative techniques and innovations born of this research flow from the United States to the rest of the world. In poor countries that cannot afford to undertake their own agricultural research, these discoveries help farmers do more with less. When U.S. agricultural scientists partner internationally, it often produces dual wins for both domestic and global stakeholders. For example, in the last decade, USDA-funded scientists worked in collaboration with international researchers to address a virulent wheat stem rust, Ug99, which wrought havoc on wheat yields across Africa and Asia. Eighty percent of the global wheat supply was vulnerable to Ug99, including U.S. production, posing a potentially devastating threat to global food security (wheat accounts for 20 percent of calories consumed globally). But by using CGIAR breeding lines, scientists stopped the spread of the disease. By partnering with scientists internationally to address global challenges like wheat rust, the United States safeguards domestic agriculture against future threats, while simultaneously bolstering resilience and productivity around the world. Consumption growth coupled with dietary changes driven by increased incomes will boost demand for agricultural products from 60 percent to over 110 percent in the coming decades. Agricultural productivity growth is key to satisfying this rising demand, but it must be harnessed in a sustainable manner to safeguard the environment. However, productivity growth is not on course to meet forecasted demands and is especially lagging in developing countries, where population and consumption growth is concentrated. Increased investments in agricultural R&D and knowledge transfer systems will be essential to ensure food security in the developing world. The Farm Bill could help to chart a more food secure future by fostering international research collaboration that supports the strategic interests of both the United States and our partners. For example, Section 1402 of the Farm Bill, which covers agricultural research, extension, and education, could be enhanced by adding language that incentivizes international scientific collaboration through USDA. The Lugar Center agrees. The first point in its Principles for Public Investments in Agriculture Sciences, published this week, states “both domestic and international research need to work together on common goals.”

#### Stable U.S. ag key to prevent great power wars—multiple hotspots

Castellaw 17 (John – 36-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Founder and CEO of Farmspace Systems LLC, “Opinion: Food Security Strategy Is Essential to Our National Security,” 5/1/17, https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/9203-opinion-food-security-strategy-is-essential-to-our-national-security)

The United States faces many threats to our National Security. These threats include continuing wars with extremist elements such as ISIS and potential wars with rogue state North Korea or regional nuclear power Iran. The heated economic and diplomatic competition with Russia and a surging China could spiral out of control. Concurrently, we face threats to our future security posed by growing civil strife, famine, and refugee and migration challenges which create incubators for extremist and anti-American government factions. Our response cannot be one dimensional but instead must be a nuanced and comprehensive National Security Strategy combining all elements of National Power including a Food Security Strategy. An American Food Security Strategy is an imperative factor in reducing the multiple threats impacting our National wellbeing. Recent history has shown that reliable food supplies and stable prices produce more stable and secure countries. Conversely, food insecurity, particularly in poorer countries, can lead to instability, unrest, and violence. Food insecurity drives mass migration around the world from the Middle East, to Africa, to Southeast Asia, destabilizing neighboring populations, generating conflicts, and threatening our own security by disrupting our economic, military, and diplomatic relationships. Food system shocks from extreme food-price volatility can be correlated with protests and riots. Food price related protests toppled governments in Haiti and Madagascar in 2007 and 2008. In 2010 and in 2011, food prices and grievances related to food policy were one of the major drivers of the Arab Spring uprisings. Repeatedly, history has taught us that a strong agricultural sector is an unquestionable requirement for inclusive and sustainable growth, broad-based development progress, and long-term stability. The impact can be remarkable and far reaching. Rising income, in addition to reducing the opportunities for an upsurge in extremism, leads to changes in diet, producing demand for more diverse and nutritious foods provided, in many cases, from American farmers and ranchers. Emerging markets currently purchase 20 percent of U.S. agriculture exports and that figure is expected to grow as populations boom. Moving early to ensure stability in strategically significant regions requires long term planning and a disciplined, thoughtful strategy. To combat current threats and work to prevent future ones, our national leadership must employ the entire spectrum of our power including diplomatic, economic, and cultural elements. The best means to prevent future chaos and the resulting instability is positive engagement addressing the causes of instability before it occurs. This is not rocket science. We know where the instability is most likely to occur. The world population will grow by 2.5 billion people by 2050. Unfortunately, this massive population boom is projected to occur primarily in the most fragile and food insecure countries. This alarming math is not just about total numbers. Projections show that the greatest increase is in the age groups most vulnerable to extremism. There are currently 200 million people in Africa between the ages of 15 and 24, with that number expected to double in the next 30 years. Already, 60% of the unemployed in Africa are young people. Too often these situations deteriorate into shooting wars requiring the deployment of our military forces. We should be continually mindful that the price we pay for committing military forces is measured in our most precious national resource, the blood of those who serve. For those who live in rural America, this has a disproportionate impact. Fully 40% of those who serve in our military come from the farms, ranches, and non-urban communities that make up only 16% of our population. Actions taken now to increase agricultural sector jobs can provide economic opportunity and stability for those unemployed youths while helping to feed people. A recent report by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs identifies agriculture development as the core essential for providing greater food security, economic growth, and population well-being. Our active support for food security, including agriculture development, has helped stabilize key regions over the past 60 years. A robust food security strategy, as a part of our overall security strategy, can mitigate the growth of terrorism, build important relationships, and support continued American economic and agricultural prosperity while materially contributing to our Nation’s and the world’s security.

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#### Top priority in lame duck and Dem house resolves deadlock – necessary to solve uncertainty and 2019’s too late.

**Pamuk 11/2** Humeyra Pamuk, Reuters, 11-12-2018, "Stung by trade wars, U.S. farmers hope for quick progress on Farm Bill," stltoday, <https://www.stltoday.com/business/local/stung-by-trade-wars-u-s-farmers-hope-for-quick/article_a0f4637e-6c78-5f81-aa41-c40571650107.html> OHS-AT

Congress comes back on Tuesday for the lame-duck session after Democrats in last week's mid-term elections gained control of the U.S. House of Representatives. Lawmakers have said passing the critical piece of agricultural legislation is their highest priority.

That would provide some comfort to farmers who for the past several months have been crushed by the loss of export markets due to the trade wars and are keen for a legislative backstop if the trade disputes linger.

"It's our safety net," Schlosser, of North Dakota, said. "We could use all the help we can to eliminate any uncertainty in times like this," he said.

The Farm Bill provides funding for an array of programs important to farmers, including crop subsidies, rural development programs and support accessing export markets. The latest bill, passed in 2014, expired on Sept. 30 after talks over its replacement broke down.

At issue was a bitter partisan debate over a provision in the draft of the new bill that would have imposed stricter work requirements for recipients of food stamps. The Republican-led House of Representatives passed an $867 billion bill in June with the tougher requirements, over the objections of Democrats. The Senate, meanwhile, passed its own bipartisan version that excluded them.

With Democrats in control of the House, the deadlock could be resolved, several senior lawmakers said last week, even as Trump reiterated his desire for stricter work requirements in the bill.

Agricultural committee staffers had continued negotiating throughout the Congressional recess to iron out differences on the bill, though a final agreement was unlikely to be produced before Thanksgiving, one staffer said.

Republican Senator Chuck Grassley said on Tuesday he was not holding his breath for a breakthrough. "I have not heard anything positive coming out of the talks between the House and Senate," he said in a conference call.

Curt Mether, a corn and soybean farmer from Iowa, said he hoped Trump would back down.

"I think President Trump will be willing to step down on the work requirements issue in the end as he understands the House will be Democrat-controlled," he said.

He noted a new Farm Bill could help farmers survive the ongoing trade dispute, which has driven China, traditionally the biggest buyer of U.S. agriculture exports, out of the market.

"Some of our export programs are funded through the Farm Bill. While we are negotiating with China, it is really important that we get all the trade we can with other countries," he said.

Bob Hemesath, an Iowa corn and hog farmer, agreed. "I'm hopeful... Amid the trade tariffs, without a Farm Bill, we would not have access to market development programs, and these are crucial," he said.

Dairy farmers, whose trade with Mexico and Canada was hit by tariffs over the summer and have yet to recover despite a new North American trade deal, have also called on lawmakers to settle the deal on the Farm Bill.

"Given the sustained low prices dairy farmers have faced, coupled with uncertainty in agricultural trade policy, it is more important than ever that Congress quickly enact the 2018 Farm Bill before adjourning for the year," said Jim Mulhern, president and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation.

#### Odds have swung in the bill’s favor – Republicans don’t want an extension and SNAP doesn’t thump

**Smith 11/13** Ron Smith, Nov 13, 2018, "65 percent chance farm bill passes this year," Delta Farm Press, <https://www.deltafarmpress.com/farm-bill/65-percent-chance-farm-bill-passes-year> OHS-AT

The odds of Congress passing a farm bill in the lame duck session may be better than many expect, as high as 65 percent, according to one speaker at the Southern Crop Production Association annual meeting, Nov. 13 in Asheville, N.C.

Jay Vroom, recently retired president and CEO of CropLife America, puts farm bill passage at that high level, saying that most of the baseline issues have been all but resolved — crop insurance, CRP and funding for research.

The last sticking point, he says, will be nutrition, and he thinks the Republican members of the four principals who will be working out the details, will be willing to make concessions.

Mike Conaway, R-Texas, chairman of the House Agricutlure Committee, and Pat Roberts, R-Kans., chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, along with Ranking Members Collin Peterson, D-Minn., and Debbie Stabenow, D- Mich., are expected to work through the details.

Vroom expects Conaway and Roberts to be willing to pare back some of the work requirements the House included for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps) recipients.

“I think they will agree on a more targeted program that might limit state waivers,” Vroom said.

He also believes Congress prefers to get the bill done instead of opting for a one-year extension or waiting until the new Congress, with the House of Representatives in Democrat control, can take it up.

“I think we have a pretty good chance of getting the bill done while Republicans are still in charge.” He says Peterson has expressed his desire to finish the bill in the lame duck session as well.

Vroom says Peterson, presumptive chairman of the next House Agriculture Committee, is a strong advocate for agriculture, a “Blue Dog Democrat. Thank God for Collin Peterson. We are glad he continues to run for office.”

In an earlier presentation, Sid Miller, Texas commissioner of agriculture and president of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, said he expects the farm bill to pass this year.

“The farm bill is on everyone’s mind,” Miller says. “It’s already late. But I think it’s highly likely that the farm bill will pass in the lame duck session. Rep. Conaway and Sen. Roberts want their names on the farm bill. All four principals are meeting now, and I think the Republicans will be agreeable to compromise. I think the changes to the SNAP program (supported by the House) will not be in it.”

#### Farm bill passes now – top priority and Republicans will be forced to compromise

**Fatka 11/8** Jacqui Fatka, Nov 08, 2018, "Lame-duck farm bill within reach," Farm Futures, <https://www.farmfutures.com/farm-bill/lame-duck-farm-bill-within-reach> OHS-AT

Even with the Tuesday's elections shifting the power in the House to Democrats next session, the House Agriculture Committee’s top-ranking Democrat Collin Peterson, D-Minn., said his No. 1 priority is getting a farm bill approved in the coming weeks.

“I have no interest in waiting until the next Congress,” Peterson said. He added that the presumed new House leadership of Reps. Nancy Pelosi, D-Cal., and Steny Hoyer, D-Md., are also on board with Peterson to get the bill wrapped up in the upcoming weeks.

Peterson has mostly been in line with Senate Agriculture Committee chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and ranking member Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., regarding the main provisions of the farm bill, including opposition to nutrition assistance work requirements and changes to crop base acres that would funnel more money to cotton producers. There also has been some disagreement with current House Agriculture Committee chairman Mike Conaway (R., Texas) on the conservation title.

Conaway previously was criticized for holding out for too long, particularly on his push for the nutrition assistance work requirements and a new wrench allowing for a wheat acreage update that could divert as much as $500 million more to cotton farmers.

Peterson said at the end of the day, none of the outstanding issues warrant holding up the entire farm bill. He explained that most of the current proposals in play have been scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which should also help get a compromise bill determined quickly.

“Now, it’s just a question of piecing this thing together and who will agree to what,” Peterson said in a conference call with media reporters Wednesday morning. “If people will just agree to agree this week, we can have this language next week when we come back” and set up for a full conference vote shortly after that.

Currently, the House is projected to be in session Nov. 13-16 and then to return again Nov. 27-30, Dec. 4-7 and Dec. 10-13.

Peterson said he has not heard House Democrats say they want to delay the farm bill, so “if it gets delayed, it won’t be because of us.”

He added that Conaway has little power left to try to push through stricter work requirements. “I think given what happened in this election, I don’t know what leverage they think they have,” Peterson said of House Republicans. “I get the sense they’re going to work this out. There’s no reason we can’t get this done. I will do everything in my power to get this done.”

Agricultural groups also took the opportunity Wednesday morning to again support farm bill passage yet this year.

Agriculture has always depended on support from both sides of the aisle, and now that the midterm elections are over, the American Soybean Assn. (ASA) said it expects that long-standing, bipartisan cooperation to be renewed. “ASA reiterates its request for the now lame-duck 115th Congress to pass a new five-year bill that can provide greater certainty and long-term stability during a down farm economy and time of trade strife,” ASA said in a statement.

John Heisdorffer, ASA president and soybean grower from Keota, Iowa, said, “The farm bill is our greatest risk management tool. With the economic challenges facing all farmers today, tools such as crop insurance, as well as [Average Revenue Coverage] and [Price Loss Coverage], are invaluable. In addition to support from farm programs, funding for the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program and Market Access Program (MAP) is needed. FMD funding has already lapsed, and MAP funding will run out at year’s end. These programs are critical to the soybean industry, particularly with the need to open and expand markets to offset sales lost to China.”

National Association of Wheat Growers president and Oklahoma wheat grower Jimmie Musick said, “While the 2018 midterm elections brought change to the political makeup of Congress, this should not impact the priority of passing the 2018 farm bill by the end of this session of Congress. With the farm bill having expired, growers are left with much uncertainty and are denied access to several beneficial programs within the bill.

#### Will pass – working on compromises and priority at lame duck session

- answers SNAP

**Associated Press**, **11-11**-2018, "Democrats’ House takeover spurs hope for farm bill," Austin Daily Herald, <https://www.austindailyherald.com/2018/11/democrats-house-takeover-spurs-hope-for-farm-bill/> OHS-AT

MINNEAPOLIS — Prospects have improved for Congress to pass a bipartisan farm bill before the end of the year after Democrats secured the House majority during the midterm elections, key lawmakers and other experts said.

Work requirements for food stamps, known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, had been the biggest stumbling block holding up an agreement. The version that narrowly passed the House with no Democratic votes includes the tougher rules. The bipartisan version that won easy Senate approval does not, and few Senate Republicans want them.

Observers say it’s likely that House Republicans will now be ready to pass a compromise in the upcoming lame duck session rather than starting over in a Democratic-controlled House and risking a result they would like even less.

“There isn’t any reason why this thing can’t get done,” said Rep. Collin Peterson, of Minnesota, the ranking Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee and the likely chairman next year. “The only thing I care about between now and the end of the year is getting this farm bill done.”

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said a news conference Friday in Frankfort, Kentucky, that passing a farm bill is one of his top priorities for the lame duck session, too. McConnell, who like Peterson is on the conference committee that’s trying to work out a final deal, said compromise on work requirements is needed.

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#### Compromising now

**McCrimmon 11/12** Ryan McCrimmon, 11/12/2018 10:00 AM EST, "Compromise options on farm bill titles I, II," POLITICO, <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-agriculture/2018/11/12/compromise-options-on-farm-bill-titles-i-ii-408758> OHS-AT

A path to compromise? Staff members from both chambers have come up with some options for resolving disagreements in the commodity title of the bill, four sources familiar with the talks told Pro Ag’s Catherine Boudreau. The committees are looking at ways to expand the number of farmers eligible for updating their crop yields, because the House bill, H.R. 2 (115), would concentrate that benefit to producers, primarily in the Southwest, whose crops were damaged from the 2012 drought.

The yields that farmers report to USDA (as well as crop prices, their historically planted crops, and acreage) factor into the amount of subsidies they receive from the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs. For that reason, Senate leaders weren’t too happy about an update applying to only a small region of the country.

Conaway, in order to offset the hundreds of millions of dollars in extra costs associated with allowing a yield update, proposed that farmers could no longer receive payments on acres that hadn’t been planted with crops eligible for government programs in the past nine years. Senate Agriculture leaders contend producers should be compensated for that loss, so farm bill negotiators are looking at providing some transition assistance, or giving farmers the chance to enroll those acres into a conservation program.

### uq – 2019 too late

#### 2019 is too late

Jeff Daniels 9/28, Trade promotion, dozens of other programs at risk as existing farm bill nears expiration. September 28, 2018. https://www.cnbc.com/2018/09/28/looming-expiration-of-farm-bill-raises-risks-for-trade-promotion.html

With the existing farm bill set to expire after Sunday and no deal reached by a joint House and Senate conference committee, it's likely the legislation will be taken up by a lame-duck session of Congress after the November elections. Yet the looming expiration has more immediate ramifications for 39 so-called orphan programs because they have authorization or funding tied to the 2014 Farm Bill. They include a government-funded trade promotion program utilized by various U.S. agricultural sectors, including some targeted with retaliatory tariffs by China and others. "Time is getting short," said Kevin Skunes, a corn and soybean grower from North Dakota and president of the National Corn Growers Association. "If the bill expires, some funding for our export program called 'Foreign Market Development' will be impacted." Another program that doesn't have baseline funding after Sept. 30 is for organic agriculture. Also at risk are certain bioenergy and rural business development programs as well as a program to assist military veteran farmers. In all, the affected programs had estimated mandatory spending amounting to about $2.8 billion during the five-year farm bill, according to a Congressional Research Service report issued in May. "While this total may be a relatively small fraction of total farm bill spending (0.6 percent of the $489 billion five-year total projection), the effect may be particularly important to specific farm bill titles and to the programs' beneficiaries," the report said. Regardless, the USDA's big-ticket programs such as crop insurance as well as nutrition programs would still continue on after the current farm bill expires Sunday. Both chambers of Congress passed a farm bill in June but major differences between the bills have led to delays in finalizing an agreement. For one, the Senate's $428 billion farm bill didn't have stricter work rule requirements for food stamp recipients, or people participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The White House and conservatives in the House has pushed for the SNAP changes, but Democrats oppose tougher work rules for the government's food assistance program. Farm subsidy reform, meantime, is another sticking point in reaching a compromise along with policy on land conservation programs. The House version of the farm bill eliminates the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which is utilized by forest and farm landowners. CSP is the nation's largest conservation program with more than 70 million acres enrolled in the program, according to the USDA. 'Big Four' meeting Agriculture committee leaders from both the House and Senate met Wednesday and issued a joint statement afterward reporting they had made "progress toward an agreement." The so-called Big Four — Agriculture Committee Chairmen Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and Rep. K. Michael Conaway, R-Texas, and ranking members Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn. — didn't meet Thursday and nothing was planned for Friday, according to a congressional source. The farm bill is usually renewed every five years, and the lion's share of the bill's funding is devoted to programs such as food stamps. There's been a history of the legislative delays with previous farm bills. Sometimes the bills have lapsed for a month or more and led to temporary extensions. Even if Congress votes for an extension of the current farm bill, however, agricultural executives say it won't replace funding gaps for the government's Foreign Market Development (FMD), or trade promotion program. "Farm Market Development is one of 39 programs that are below $50 million per year that won't be funded without a new farm bill," said Steve Mercer, a spokesman for U.S. Wheat Associates, a trade group that markets American wheat to international buyers. Organizations such as U.S. Wheat Associates receive funds from the $34.5 million FMD program to help develop, maintain and grow export markets. Other groups that receive trade promotion funding under the FMD program include the U.S. Meat Export Federation, U.S. Grains Council, American Hardwood Export Council and American Soybean Association. 'Double whammy' "It's kind of a double whammy when you look at it," said Mercer, explaining that the industry is facing an approaching funding gap on top of the retaliatory tariffs imposed by two large importers — China and Mexico. According to Mercer, China essentially stopped purchasing U.S. wheat imports in March and Mexico slowed imports of the commodity. "If we don't have this cornerstone funding program to limit those losses, we're really getting handicapped to get our exports back on track," he said. But with midterms elections less than 40 days away and potential for political risk, there's a growing recognition that Congress will wait despite missing the Sept. 30 deadline. "The mood in Washington is the real deadline is maybe not until December," said Andrew Walmsley, director of congressional relations for the American Farm Bureau Federation, a trade group for agricultural producers. If Congress fails to agree on a new farm bill in December, though, Warmsley said the situation could get "daunting" and create uncertainty for the industry since it would essentially mean restarting the whole process for a new bill in 2019 with a new Congress. Moreover, if Congress punts the farm bill into 2019 without an extension it could have a major impact on dairy farmers and also result in some programs reverting back to what's known as "permanent law," or rate structures based on legislation from the 1940s.

#### 2019 collapses American ag and destroys growth

Farm Bureau 9/26 (9-26-2018, "Congress Can and Must Complete the Farm Bill," No Publication, <https://www.fb.org/viewpoints/congress-can-and-must-complete-the-farm-bill>)

Here we go again. For the second time in a decade, we are down to the wire on the farm bill. While members of the House-Senate Conference Committee say they are close to reaching a deal, there are no guarantees. Farmers are in limbo—not knowing if the risk management programs they need to qualify for operating loans will be there.

Even if the conferees reach a compromise within the next few days, Congress will not vote on it until after the current farm bill expires. The sky won’t fall right away. The residual effects of programs that have been in place until now will keep working for a little while. But time will run out. And the longer it takes to get the new farm bill passed, the greater the harm to confidence in our farm economy. The proverbial runway is short—weeks at best.

 Farmers are in limbo—not knowing if the risk management programs they need to qualify for operating loans will be there.

We use the word “certainty” a lot when we talk about the farm bill, and that’s a big part of why it’s important. The same as the stock market takes a dive if there’s a major shakeup at a big company or if the Federal Reserve sends mixed signals on interest rates, confidence in the farm economy takes a hit if farmers don’t have the certainty the farm bill provides. And the farm economy cannot withstand another hit right now.

USDA in August projected **this year’s net farm income would be** $65.7 billion—**the** third-lowest level over the past decade. **The downturn** in farm income over the past few years **has driven** farm debt **to a** record high of $407 billion projected for 2018. **Another important indicator of farm** financial health, **the** **debt-to-asset ratio is projected to climb to 13.4 percent this year.** **It’s the** sixth consecutive year of climbing debt as a percentage of farmers’ assets.

### \*\*links\*\*

### link – generic

#### The plan knocks the Farm Bill off the docket

Heitshusen 13 (Valerie – Analyst on Congress and the Legislative Process, 3/18/13, ‘The Legislative Process on the Senate Floor: An Introduction”, [http://www.senate.gov/CRSReports/crs-publish.cfm?pid=%26\*2D4Q%5CK3%0A](http://www.senate.gov/CRSReports/crs-publish.cfm?pid=%26*2D4Q%5CK3%0A))

The legislative process is laborious and time-consuming, and the time available for Senate floor action each year is limited. Every day devoted to one bill is a day denied for consideration of other legislation, and there are not enough days to act on all the bills that Senators and Senate committees wish to see enacted. Naturally, the time pressures become even greater with the approach of deadlines such as the date for adjournment and the end of the fiscal year. So, for all but the most important bills, even the threat of a filibuster can be a potent weapon. Before a bill reaches the floor or while it is being debated, its supporters often seek ways to accommodate the concerns of opponents, preferring an amended bill that can be passed without protracted debate to the time, effort, and risks involved in confronting a filibuster or the threat of one.

#### Any serious oversight splits the GOP – destroys the agenda

Mickey 17 [Professor @ U Mich, Is America Still Safe for Democracy? Why the United States Is in Danger of Backsliding, May, cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/social\_science/clarkd/upload/Is%20America%20Still%20Safe%20for%20Democracy.pdf]

When the same party controls both Congress and the White House, legislators have little incentive to exercise tough oversight of the president. Today, then, polarization reduces the chance that congressional Republicans will constrain Trump. Although many party elites would prefer a more predictable Republican in the White House, Trump’s strong support among the party’s voters means that any serious opposition would probably split the party and encourage primary challenges, as well as endanger the party’s ambitious conservative agenda. Congressional Republicans are thus unlikely to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors who reined in Nixon. Indeed, so far, they have refused to seriously investigate Trump’s conflicts of interest or accusations of collusion between his campaign and the Russian government.

### link – tax returns

#### Tax disclosure bills cause infighting – California proves

**Myers 17** John Myers, 10-16-2017, "Trump won't have to disclose tax returns to get on California's ballot, as Gov. Jerry Brown vetoes bill," latimes, <http://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-updates-trump-tax-returns-veto-jerry-brown-1508092026-htmlstory.html> OHS-AT

An unprecedented effort to force President Trump and other White House hopefuls to disclose their personal income tax returns was blocked by Gov. Jerry Brown on Sunday, who argued the plan would likely be overturned by the courts.

Brown's veto of Senate Bill 149 put him at odds with legislative Democrats who insisted its mandate for five years of income tax information would help voters make an informed choice. In his veto message, though, the governor said the proposal could have led to other litmus tests for candidates.

"Today we require tax returns, but what would be next?" Brown wrote. "Five years of health records? A certified birth certificate? High school report cards? And will these requirements vary depending on which political party is in power?"

Democrats in the Legislature introduced the plan last December, angered by Trump's refusal to disclose information about his personal finances.

"For decades, every president has put their personal beliefs aside and put our country first and released their returns," state Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg), the bill’s author, said last month. "The American people shouldn’t be in the dark about their president’s financial entanglements."

Trump is the first president in four decades to fully conceal his personal income tax filings from voters. He cited pending audits of those documents during the 2016 campaign and has since deflected new calls for the information. Democrats said the state legislation was an effort to keep that from happening again in 2020.

"This bill is about giving the American people the honesty and transparency they deserve from anyone who wishes to serve as their president," said state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), the bill's coauthor, shortly after it passed the Legislature.

Most Republicans derided SB 149 as little more than an attempt to embarrass Trump. They pointed out Brown failed to release copies of his tax returns during campaigns for governor in 2010 and 2014. He was also one of a handful of presidential candidates to eschew the practice, releasing only part of his tax returns during his third unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 1992.

#### New Jersey proves it’s politicized

**Johnson 17** Brent Johnson, 5-1-2017, "Christie kills bill forcing Trump to release tax returns in N.J. if he runs again," NJ, <https://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2017/05/christie_says_no_to_forcing_trump_others_to_releas.html> OHS-AT

TRENTON -- Gov. Chris Christie on Monday vetoed a controversial bill that would have forced future presidential candidates -- including President Donald Trump -- to release their tax returns to receive a spot on New Jersey's ballot.

The governor, a longtime Trump friend and fellow Republican, dismissed the Democratic-backed measure as "clearly unconstitutional" and a "transparent political stunt masquerading as a bill."

"Unwilling to cope with the results of last November's election, the Legislature introduced this unconstitutional bill as a form of therapy to deal with their disbelief at the 2016 election results, and to play politics to their base," Christie wrote in his veto message.

Christie actually used a conditional veto, in which governors suggest changes to bills that the state Legislature can then choose to make.

But Christie's condition would rewrite the bill rather than change it. He eliminated the part requiring presidential contenders to disclose tax returns and recommended expanding the state's Open Public Record Act by removing exemptions for records kept by the state Legislature.

"The hypocrisy and false outrage underlying this bill is stunning -- even by Trenton standards," Christie wrote. "Rather than focus on the multitude of important issues impacting New Jersey's residents, the Legislature wasted time on a bill that manufactures from whole cloth a qualification for the office of President not found in the United States Constitution in the hope of scoring cheap political points.

### link – election reform

#### Electoral reform bills trigger partisan infighting and stall the legislative process

**Bronner 12** Ethan Bronner, 7-31-2012, "Voter ID Issue Is One of Many for U.S. Voting Systems," New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/01/us/voting-systems-plagues-go-far-beyond-identification.html> OHS-AT

Twelve years after a too-close-to-call presidential contest imploded in a hail of Florida punch card ballots and a bitter 5-to-4 Supreme Court ruling for George W. Bush, the country’s voting systems remain as deeply flawed as ever with any prospect of fixing them mired in increasing levels of partisanship.

The most recent high-profile fights have been about voter identification requirements and whether they are aimed at stopping fraud or keeping minority group members and the poor from voting. But there are worse problems with voter registration, ballot design, absentee voting and electoral administration.

In Ohio, the recommendations of a bipartisan commission on ways to reduce the large number of provisional ballots and long lines at polling stations in 2008 have come to naught after a Republican takeover of both houses of the legislature in 2010. In New York, a redesign of ballots that had been widely considered hard to read and understand was passed by the State Assembly this year. But a partisan dispute in the Senate on other related steps led to paralysis.

And states have consistently failed to fix a wide range of electoral flaws identified by a bipartisan commission led by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James A. Baker III in 2005. In Florida, for example, the commission found 140,000 voters who had also registered in four other states — some 46,000 of them in New York City alone. When 1,700 of them registered for absentee ballots in the other state, no one investigated. Some 60,000 voters were also simultaneously registered in North and South Carolina.

The panel suggested changes including impartial election administration, better voter list maintenance, uniform photo ID requirements and paper trails for electronic voting machines. But Republicans in some states liked the ideas that fit their notion of what was wrong — potential for fraud. And Democrats preferred others — increasing voter participation. Little was done.

“This has all become incredibly politicized in recent years,” noted Daniel Tokaji, an election law professor at Ohio State University. “If you go back in our history, you can find voter registration rules used to exclude blacks or immigrants from voting. But since 2000 it seems to have gotten worse. Both parties have realized that election administration rules can make the difference between victory and defeat in a close election. And unlike virtually every other country in the world, our systems are administered by partisan officials elected as candidates of their parties.”

### \*\*impx\*\*

### xt – war

### scenario – econ – 1nc

### \*\*theory\*\*

### at: intrinsicness

### at: fiat takes out the link

### at: vote no

### at: bottom of the docket