

Farm Bill Brief

Why It Matters

The Farm Bill is the primary federal policy framework shaping support for specialty crops, nutrition programs, research, and market development. For the fresh produce and floral supply chain, it is one of the most important opportunities Congress has to strengthen grower competitiveness, expand consumer access to fruits and vegetables, and improve long term food system resilience.

Quick Facts

- The Farm Bill includes major federal investments that directly affect specialty crop growers and the fresh produce supply chain.
- More than 80 percent of Farm Bill spending is in the nutrition title, making produce access and consumption a central issue.
- Title X is the only title solely dedicated to horticulture and organic agriculture.
- Specialty Crop Block Grants and related programs support research, marketing, innovation, and competitiveness.

Background

IFPA serves as a co-chair of the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance and works to advance policy that reflects the needs of specialty crop agriculture. Congress has taken steps to address some immediate funding gaps, but additional action is still needed to complete the next phase of Farm Bill policy and ensure specialty crop growers have the tools, investment, and certainty needed to compete and grow.

IFPA Priorities

- Create a permanent program structure for specialty crop economic assistance.
- Increase funding for research, innovation, and crop protection tools, including programs such as IR 4.
- Strengthening risk management tools tailored to specialty crop production.
- Expand nutrition initiatives that increase fruit and vegetable consumption.
- Protect the integrity of specialty crop programs by preserving a clear specialty crop definition.

Why Congress Should Care

- The Farm Bill supports food security, grower competitiveness, rural economies, and public health.
- Specialty crop policy helps drive access to fresh fruits and vegetables for families, schools, and communities.
- A strong Farm Bill helps ensure long-term stability and resilience across the food supply chain.

