

Farm Bill

Timely passage of the Farm Bill is critical to the continued success of American agriculture and the protection of our public health and environment. CropLife America and RISE support the following science- and risk-based policies in the Farm Bill that foster innovation and technology.

Reaffirm EPA as the Primary Federal Regulatory Authority Under FIFRA

States are permitted to regulate the sale and use of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and to build upon the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) federal regulations of pesticides, but **states should not be able to put contradictory or different pesticide labels on packaging.** Recent state actions on labelling have challenged decades of scientific guidance, by directly and unjustifiably contradicting EPA's scientific findings on pesticide safety.

These actions create an unworkable, inconsistent patchwork of state or municipal pesticide labels that will quickly disrupt commerce and access to these much-needed tools.

Our Ask: Include clarifying language from the bipartisan bill H.R. 4288, the "Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act," in the Farm Bill.

Support U.S. Engagement in International Food Standard Setting Forums

Countries around the globe set food safety standards to ensure consumer and crop safety. Among those standards are Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for pesticides used on crops. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) establishes MRLs for food and animal feed that countries can utilize if they do not have an MRL established through their own regulatory system.

When a country does not have an MRL or has MRLs lower than an exporting nation, this can create non-tariff barriers to trade that prevent the exporting country's farmers from using certain pesticides or from exporting their products.

The United States must advocate for establishing reasonable MRLs, support countries' adoption of Codex standards, and oppose proposals outside of Codex's mandate, such as environmental/sustainability considerations.

Our Ask: Provide mandatory funding to ensure USDA's continued engagement in Codex activities and require EPA to develop a uniform policy under FIFRA for adoption of Codex MRLs.

Enhance Interagency Coordination on Endangered Species Act

The 2018 Farm Bill created a new Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Interagency Working Group (IWG) between the White House Council on Environmental Quality, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Commerce (National Marine Fisheries Service), Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Since its creation, the IWG has made great strides in enhancing the consultation process, but **this work must continue to ensure pesticide registration is done properly, with the use of sound science, and with quantitative risk assessments.**

Specifically, improved and enhanced coordination between the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) and EPA will support more predictable, transparent, legally defensible, and risk-based pesticide registration decisions (support S. 2472/H.R. 5070).

Our Ask: Reauthorize the ESA IWG and provide USDA's OPMP with annual mandatory funding of \$5 million to improve the ESA consultation process.

If you have questions, please reach out to rise@pestfacts.org

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CLA and RISE Also Support:

State Pesticide Preemption

FIFRA establishes states as coregulators of pesticides, ensuring a uniform, science-based regulatory process.

Reaffirming state pesticide preemption in the 2024 Farm Bill is essential to ensure pesticide regulation is in the hands of scientific experts. Local governments do not have the scientific expertise or resources to regulate pesticides and allowing local control would threaten the availability of EPA-registered pesticides to be used based solely on your zip code.

- Support the U.S. EPA and state lead regulatory agencies as coregulators of pesticides.

Emerging Innovation and Technologies

Bolstering research and innovation is key to continued advancements that benefit the U.S. agriculture and green industries. Building off the 2018 Farm Bill's definition of biostimulants, the 2024 Farm Bill should strive to establish a regulatory framework for these tools, while also supporting incentives for the adoption of precision agriculture technology.

- Establish a federal definition for biostimulants, along with a predictable, science- and risk-based framework for their assessment (support S. 802/H.R. 1472).
- Support incentives that encourage the adoption of precision agriculture technologies (support S. 720/H.R. 1459 and S. 719/H.R. 1495).
- Fund a National Statistical Survey for Turfgrass and reauthorize the National Turfgrass Research Initiative (NTRI).

Sustainable Practices for a Stronger Agriculture Industry

Increasing the accessibility for programs supporting climate-smart agriculture practices is necessary for broader industry adoption. The Food & Agriculture Climate Alliance (FACA), of which CropLife America is a member, highlights policy recommendations for inclusion in the 2024 Farm Bill.

- Support Food & Agriculture Climate Alliance Farm Bill policy recommendations.
- Support incentives that encourage the adoption of sustainable conservation practices, such as the use of cover crops and no-till farming practices.
- Streamline Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) application requirements, allowing farmers and agriculture retailers to prepare and submit nutrient management and conservation plans for NRCS approval to enhance conservation program availability and enrollment.
- Increase access to the NRCS Technical Service Providers (TSP) so farmers can better address resource concerns on their land (support S. 1400/H.R. 3036).

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