

2026 House Farm Bill AmericanHort Provisions and Priorities

Title I: Commodities

Enhances standing disaster programs and expands eligibility for assistance.

- Improves the Tree Assistance (TAP) Program:
 - Expands support to American producers of trees, vines, and shrubs.
 - Plant pests are included in the definition of “natural disasters.”
 - Provides impacted growers with an upfront payment to kickstart replanting.
- Directs the Secretary to establish a standing framework for economic assistance:
 - Includes natural disasters and times of economic hardships.
- Creates a standing block grant authority for future disaster payments.

Title II: Conservation

Protects and enhances working lands conservation programs to ensure they remain producer-first, flexible, and locally led.

- Enhances the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) by incorporating proven technologies, innovative programs, and precision agriculture.

Title III: Trade

Substantially increases funding for the Market Access Program (MAP)/Foreign Market Development Program (FMD).

- FY26: \$200 M; FY27: \$400 M; FY28 and beyond: \$410 M

Title IV: Nutrition

Title V: Credit

- Expands eligibility for ownership & operating loans to individuals or entity members with 50% or more ownership.
- Increases loan limits:
 - Guaranteed farm ownership loans: \$1.75 M.
 - Guaranteed operating loans: \$3 M.
 - Doubles microloan cap to \$100,000.
- Prioritizes precision agriculture technology:
 - Supports automation, irrigation efficiency, climate control systems, and data-driven production tools.
- Streamlines loan applications/approvals for loans under \$1 M.
- Allows distressed FSA-guaranteed loans to convert into direct loans.
- Adjusts down payment requirements:
 - USDA can finance up to 45% of the farm purchase price/appraised value to help growers acquire land with lower upfront capital.

Title VI: Rural Development

Strengthens broadband connectivity to rural communities.

- The Secretary will provide funding to support the expansion of broadband service in rural areas, prioritizing unserved communities.

Title VII: Research, Extension, and Related Matters

- Increases funding for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.
 - Allows the Secretary to waive the matching funds requirement for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.
- Allocates funding for research and development of mechanization and automation technologies for the specialty crop industry.
 - Provides \$30 million annually from the Specialty Crop Research Initiative to fund a new Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research and Extension Program.
 - Establishes a High-Priority Research and Extension Initiative for Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research.
 - Funds not issued in this grant will be redirected into the SCRI program.
- Reauthorizes funding for the Office of Pest Management Policy until 2031.
- Establishes the Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service Modernization to improve the efficiency of NASS data collection (surveys) and quality of survey responses.

Title VIII: Forestry

Reforestation Support from Nurseries and Seed Orchards:

- Grant funding for projects to develop, expand, or improve nursery production, seedling production, and storage for nurseries supplying native trees with appropriate genetic qualities for reforestation.
- Eligible recipients include private nurseries experienced in growing high-quality native trees, higher education institutions, and county or local governments with nurseries or seed orchards.
- Total funding of \$20 million, distributed as \$5 million per fiscal year.

Title IX: Energy

Allows for critical cost and energy savings by increasing access to the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

Title X: Horticulture, Marketing, and Regulatory Reform

- Authorizes the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program through 2031 and establishes a stakeholder consultation process.
- Reauthorizes the National Plant Diagnostics Network through 2031.
- Enhances other horticulture and marketing programs in the title, including the Specialty Crop Market News Allocation.

- Creates a USDA pilot program to streamline the movement of engineered microorganisms inside approved research facilities:
 - Helps universities and horticulture biotech companies accelerate the development of biological crop protection, plant health, and soil microbiome tools used in specialty crop production.
 - Supports innovation in greenhouse, nursery, and controlled-environment horticulture by reducing research bottlenecks for microbial technologies that improve disease management, nutrient efficiency, and sustainable growing systems.
 - Strengthens the pipeline of next-generation biological inputs for horticulture without changing existing rules governing plant cultivation or field release.
- Reforms the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act:
 - When developing risk mitigation measures for any pesticide registered under this Act, the EPA Administrator must conduct an economic analysis determining the cost of implementing such measures.
 - Requires an interagency working group to regularly consult with stakeholders.
 - The EPA Administrator, Secretary of Agriculture, and the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy will meet with a private sector working group annually to receive input from stakeholders before implementing any policy, strategy, work plan, or pilot program related to the application of the Endangered Species Act.
 - Uniformity of Pesticide Labeling Requirements:
 - Requires nationwide uniform pesticide labeling under FIFRA, preventing states or local governments from penalizing growers or manufacturers for following EPA-approved labels.
 - Prohibits local jurisdictions from creating their own pesticide sale or use requirements, reinforcing a uniform federal and state regulatory framework.
 - Confirms that pesticides used according to EPA-approved labels are lawful without additional permits, reducing compliance uncertainty for growers.

Title XI: Crop Insurance

- Establishes a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee and Coordinator within USDA's crop insurance program to expand and improve insurance tools specifically for specialty crop producers, giving horticulture a stronger voice in policy design.
- Requires USDA to review insurance limits for high-value crops, including greenhouse and nursery production, to better reflect real financial risk and modern production systems.

- Directs research and development of new specialty crop insurance products, including coverage for frost events, prevented planting, greenhouse/nursery systems, and revenue protection – expanding risk management options for horticulture growers.

Title XII: Miscellaneous

- Increases transparency regarding the detention of imported plants.
 - Requires USDA to clarify how importers can obtain detailed explanations when plant shipments are detained or denied entry under the Lacey Act, improving transparency for nursery and plant import businesses.
 - Helps horticulture importers resolve detentions faster by creating a clearer communication pathway with regulators, potentially reducing costly delays and plant loss.
 - Supports supply chain reliability for members who import plant material by making the enforcement process more predictable and navigable.

HR 1 - The 2025 Budget Reconciliation Act,

As a reminder – most budget/financial provisions that are normally included in a Farm Bill were instead addressed in H.R.1, The One Big Beautiful Bill. They are:

- Permanently extended Section 199A for farmer cooperatives.
- Expands and modernizes Section 179 expensing.
- Horticulture Programs Funding for FY 2026:
 - Plant Pest and Disease Management: \$90 million
 - Specialty Crop Block Grants: \$100 million
 - Organic Production and Market Data: \$10 million
 - International Trade Tech & Data Systems: \$5 million
 - National Organic Certification Cost-Share: Extended through FY 2031
 - Multiple Crop & Pesticide Use Survey: Additional \$5 million (until expended)
- Directs new USDA funding to rural infrastructure priorities:
 - Rural Broadband Expansion:
 - Provides targeted USDA funding to accelerate broadband deployment in underserved and unserved rural areas.
 - Aims to improve access to high-speed internet for farms, businesses, schools, and households.
 - Supports precision agriculture, remote learning, telehealth, and rural entrepreneurship.
- Farm Program Updates:
 - Authorizes multi-county cooperative pooling under crop insurance.
 - Improves technical program responsiveness and regional flexibility.
 - Payment Limit Increase: Raises Title I payment cap from \$125,000 to \$155,000.
 - Qualified Pass-Through Entities: Expands eligibility to a broader range of partnerships and joint ventures.
 - Expanded Program Access: Farmers earning 75%+ of income from ag/forestry are now eligible for more disaster and conservation programs.
- Farm Succession Incentives: Allows deferral of capital gains taxes on family farm transfers, provided the land remains in agricultural use