

2018 FARM BILL

As the 115th Congress works throughout 2017 to craft a new Farm Bill, we want to play an active role in sharing priorities that are important to the continued success of the seed industry and our grower customers.

ASTA'S PRIORITY ISSUES INCLUDE:

COMMODITY PROGRAMS:

Maintain current language ensuring that program requirements do not adversely affect hybrid seed growers.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS:

Working lands conservation is an important element for the sustainable growth of agriculture. The Farm Bill should support flexible and efficient programs that provide producers with both financial and technical assistance.

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** acreage should be increased from current cap.
- **Cover Crop** usage in production agriculture is one of the most promising practices to address soil health. Policy refinements are still needed so that producers are encouraged to use cover crops.
- **Wildlife Habitat** - Seed specifications for conservation programs can greatly impact program costs and effectiveness. USDA seed mix recommendations should provide the maximum benefit without unnecessarily adding cost. At the same time, program participants should be encouraged to use professionally produced seed that has undergone proper testing.

TRADE:

Increase funding for international trade programs such as the Market Access Program (MAP), Foreign Market Development Program (FMD), and specialized programs like the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC). Resources from MAP and FMD are critical to ASTA's ability to provide international leadership and work with trading partners to resolve technical barriers to the movement of seed.

RESEARCH:

Federal research and education programs supported through the Farm Bill help secure the U.S.'s position as the global leader in agricultural innovation. Specifically, ASTA supports continued funding for pest and disease prevention programs, funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), and continued funding for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).

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