



NASCOE

Legislative Update

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Legislative Update
July 10, 2025

On July 4, President Trump signed the One, Big, Beautiful bill into law. With this new law, certain Farm Bill programs are now extended through 2031. More importantly, NASCOE's advocacy work led to positive outcomes for both agricultural policy and federal employee benefits. The final agreement invests over \$65 billion into traditional farm programs. The information below highlights key provisions included in the new law.

Commodity Programs:

Increases reference prices for ARC/PLC beginning with the 2025 crop year – for 2025, landowners receive the higher of ARC or PLC.

- Maintains all base acres while providing a one-time voluntary allocation of 30 million new base acres.
- Increases marketing assistance loan rates for all loan commodities.
- Increases payment limitations for Title I payments from \$125,000 to \$155,000 and includes annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index.

Conservation programs:

Provides additional funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

- Does not include language allowing the Secretary of Agriculture to shift the Conservation Reserve Program from FSA to NRCS.

Implementation:

- Provides \$50 million to FSA for program implementation.

The link below provides detailed and updated information regarding the agriculture policy included in the budget reconciliation measure. [\[2025-06-25\] Chairman Boozman Releases Updated Agriculture, Nutrition,...](#)



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Federal Employee Benefits:

Our previous legislative update highlighted various provisions that would have negatively impacted our employees. The initial proposals included increased FERS contributions, changing the pension calculation from “High 3” to “High 5” salary average, and a newly designed at-will hiring model waiving civil service protections in exchange for reduced retirement contributions.

The above provisions were all removed before the bill became public law. Thank you to all the NASCOE members and our legislative team who highlighted the importance of employee benefits to federally elected officials and staff.

Outlook:

With the first budget reconciliation bill completed, the House Agriculture Committee will begin another farm bill reauthorization. As you all know, budget reconciliation rules prevented numerous titles from receiving policy or funding improvements. We expect the House will begin drafting the farm bill 2.0 later this summer and into the fall.

In addition, our NASCOE leadership is monitoring the Department of Agriculture’s implementation activities. We will provide additional information when it becomes available.

Conclusion:

Thank you for your continued work on behalf of NASCOE’s membership. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Legislative Committee should you need additional information.

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