

Farm Bill 2023

Thursday, March 30, 2023





TJC and the Nutrition Team

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Our mission: End hunger in Tennessee by protecting and strengthening SNAP, WIC, and Child Nutrition Programs.

- Direct Client Services
- Identifying Program Barriers
- Advocating for Solutions
- Educating and Informing



Agenda:

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- History & Context
- Nutrition Programs
- Upcoming Farm Bill & SNAP
- Advocacy/Action Opportunities

HISTORY & CONTEXT

Key Facts to Know



- Instituted in 1933
- "Omnibus" legislation
- Reauthorized every 5 years
- Covers and funds 12 broad issues called "Titles"



3 Major Buckets



Farmers and Agriculture



Nutrition Programs



Conservation Efforts

The 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334), by Title

Title I, Commodities: Provides support for major commodity crops, including wheat, corn, soybeans, peanuts, rice, dairy, and sugar, as well as disaster assistance.

Title II, Conservation: Encourages environmental stewardship of farmlands and improved management through land retirement programs, working lands programs, or both.

Title III, Trade: Supports U.S. agricultural export programs and international food assistance programs.

Title IV, Nutrition: Provides nutrition assistance for low-income households through programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Title V, Credit: Offers direct government loans and guarantees to producers to buy land and operate farms and ranches.

Title VI, Rural Development: Supports rural housing, community facilities, business, and utility programs through grants, loans, and guarantees.

Title VII, Research, Extension, and Related Matters: Supports agricultural research and extension programs to expand academic knowledge and help producers be more productive.

Title VIII, Forestry: Supports forestry management programs run by USDA's Forest Service.

Title IX, Energy: Encourages the development of farm and community renewable energy systems through various programs, including grants and loan guarantees.

Title X, Horticulture: Supports the production of specialty crops, USDA-certified organic foods, and locally produced foods and authorizes a regulatory framework for industrial hemp.

Title XI, Crop Insurance: Enhances risk management through the permanently authorized Federal Crop Insurance Program.

Title XII, Miscellaneous: Includes programs and assistance for livestock and poultry production, support for beginning farmers and ranchers, and other miscellaneous and general provisions.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Nutrition Programs



- First Nutrition Titles were introduced in 1973
- Farm Bill reauthorizes SNAP, FDPIR, TEFAP, CSFP, SFMNP, etc.
- Does not authorize WIC or NSLP
- Made up 76% of 2018 Farm Bill mandatory spending



2018 Farm Bill Highlights



**Farm Bill passed w/ bipartisan support:
Senate ([87-37](#)) & House ([369-47](#))**

- Maintained the SNAP-Ed program
- Mandated reevaluation of the Thrifty Food Program (TFP) every five years
- [GUSNIP](#), TEFAP, and CSFP were all bolstered

Thrifty Food Plan (TFP)



- Used to guide SNAP benefit amounts
- First time to be revisited since 1975.
- Benefits increased \$36.24 per person per month.
- Congressional pushback due to program increase of \$250B



THE THRIFTY FOOD PLAN

- ✓ Aligns with dietary guidance
- ✓ Represents a limited food budget
- ✓ Reflects what Americans buy and eat
- ✓ Supports a healthy, active lifestyle

TO CALCULATE THE TFP, USDA:

USED THE LATEST DATA

- How much groceries cost
- What nutrients are in food
- What Americans actually eat
- What a nutritious diet looks like

MADE SEVERAL CHOICES

- Calorie levels the plan supports
- Range of food choices it includes
- What it means to be "thrifty"

USDA experts used the model, starting with the cost of the 2006 TFP, and increased it **one penny at a time**, to find the lowest cost plan that meets the needs of low-income Americans, and reflects the latest available data.

As a result, the 2021 TFP represents the cost of a practical, nutritious, cost-effective diet for a family of four with an adult male and female and two kids between the ages of 6-8 and 9-11.



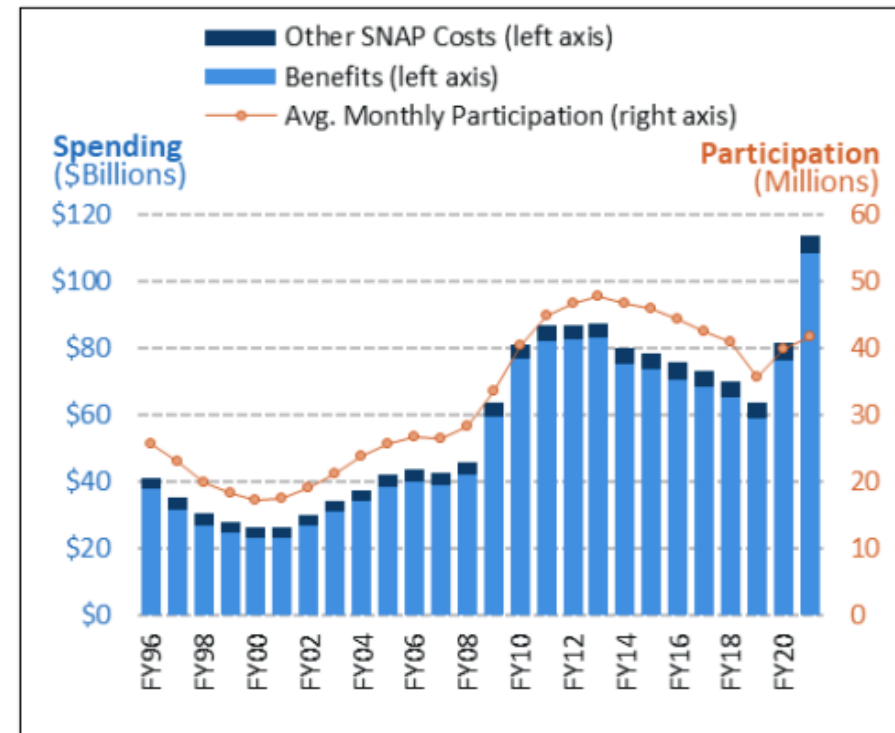
SNAP



- Open-ended mandatory spending, funded through appropriations
- Largest single program expenditure of the Farm Bill
- Leads economic growth
 - \$1.00 > \$1.50

Figure 1. SNAP Participation and Federal Spending, FY1996-FY2021

Constant (inflation-adjusted) FY2021 dollars



UPCOMING FARM BILL

2023 Farm Bill



- Senate Committee Hearing on Nutrition Programs [HERE](#)
- Senate Committee with Secretary Tom Vilsack [HERE](#)



SNAP Legislation



The Improving Access to Nutrition Act

- Eliminates time limits

The Enhanced Access to SNAP Act (EATS Act)

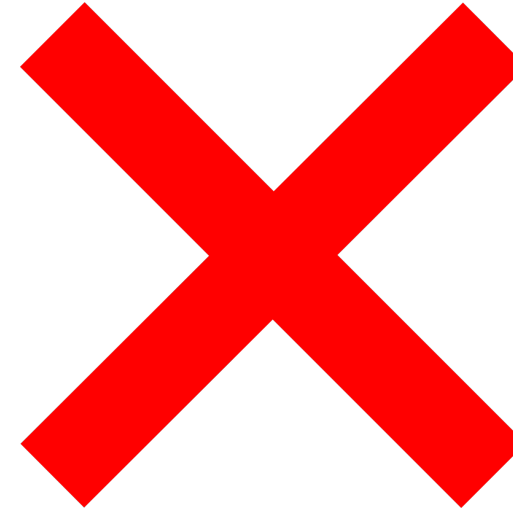
- Removes unfair work eligibility for college students

The MEAL Act

- Ends the drug felon ban to SNAP participation



SNAP Legislation



America Works Act (H.R.8004) (Rep. Dusty Johnson R-SD) would extend work requirements for ABAWD recipients from ages 18-49 to 18-65. Would remove states' ability to apply for work requirement waivers.

This bill is getting support from Rep. Ogles (R-TN) as a co-sponsor.

<https://dustyjohnson.house.gov/media/press-releases/johnson-leads-work-requirements-fight-us-house>



ADVOCACY/ACTION
OPPORTUNITIES

Ways to Take Action



Reach out to TN legislators on the Ag Committee

- Rep. Scott Desjarlais (TN-04)
- Rep. John Rose (TN-06)

Speak against H.R. 8004

- Rep. Andy Ogles (TN-05)

Letter writing, social media, schedule a visit, email/calling

Sharing resources/[Monthly newsletters](#)

[TJC Story Form](#)



Resources



- [TJC SNAP Guide for Families](#)
- [TJC Get SNAP page](#) with [SNAP App Video](#)
- Vanderbilt [report](#) on child food insecurity
- Sycamore Institute [report](#) on Child and Family Poverty in TN
- [NYT Podcast on Child Poverty](#)
- Census Data on [SNAP](#) and Poverty
- [FRAC Farm Bill Priorities Worksheet](#)
- CBPP [Writeup](#) on legislation for SNAP



QUESTIONS?

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