



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

As the Committee on Agriculture approaches the legislative markup for the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) appreciates your work to support America’s farmers, rural communities, and consumers in the farm bill.

NCGA represents 36,000 dues paying members and the interests of the broader community of 500,000 U.S. corn farmers. As a grassroots-led association, grower leaders representing NCGA and affiliated state associations have provided formal input with recommendations for updating farm bill policies and programs as far back as 2022. Corn growers from across the country have participated in listening sessions, field hearings, formal Congressional testimony, and meetings with their Member of Congress to call for improvements to make USDA programs more effective, efficient, and responsive.

NCGA’s values and areas of emphasis for the farm bill are summarized by these key principles: protecting federal crop insurance; strengthening the producer safety net; bolstering U.S. international market development efforts; supporting voluntary conservation programs, and championing initiatives important to rural America.

While several important and longstanding farm bill priorities for corn growers, including key investments in commodity and trade promotion programs, were addressed primarily through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) in 2025, corn growers recognize that the legislation was passed via the budget reconciliation process which limited the scope of policy provisions.

Farm Bill 2.0

Corn growers support the bipartisan development and passage of a “Farm Bill 2.0” this Congress and provide the following feedback on the Farm, Food, and National Security Act ahead of the legislative markup in the House Committee on Agriculture.

Many of the NCGA endorsed farm bill marker bills and policy recommendations are reflected in the proposed legislation and would be an improvement upon existing programs for corn growers and rural America. As the legislative process moves forward, corn growers will continue to advocate for additional policy enhancements and are prepared to defend against harmful amendments.



Championing initiatives important to rural America

The farm bill includes many programs and policies important to corn growers and broader constituencies across rural America including provisions in the credit, rural development, research, and energy titles.

Access to credit and rural development programs is important for corn growers to enhance their operations and innovate with precision agriculture tools. NCGA supports sections 5105, 5106, and 5202 that updates loan limits for farm ownership loans and guaranteed operating loans. Corn growers also support provisions in Section 6302 that expand access and promote the adoption of precision agriculture technology. This will help to ease the financial burden of adopting precision agriculture practices.

Corn growers are supportive of the reauthorization of several key research priorities through 2031 including Section 7125 the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority, Section 7203 the Agriculture Genome to Phenome Initiative, and Section 7402 the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.

Increased access and innovation to biofuels, bioproducts, and related feedstocks remain a top priority for corn growers. NCGA strongly supports clearly defining sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) as an advanced biofuel as seen in Section 9001 and the strategy to encourage the production of SAF in Section 9013. Additionally, corn growers support reauthorizing USDA's BioPreferred program through Section 9002, which expands domestic manufacturing of renewable biobased products. Improvements to the BioPreferred program and to Biorefinery Assistance in Section 9003 provide the U.S. with the tools to lead in research, development, and manufacturing of bioproducts.

Predictable and reliable access to critical crop protection tools is important to corn growers. NCGA supports uniformity of pesticide labeling requirements in Section 10205 that affirm that FIFRA gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the exclusive authority to determine labeling and packaging requirements, and those labels must reflect EPA's scientific conclusions.

Supporting voluntary conservation programs

Corn growers are committed to implementing successful conservation practices on their farms. NCGA supports investments into USDA working lands conservation programs, which help corn growers continue to be good stewards of the land and play an important role in advancing the adoption of conservation practices.

NCGA strongly supports the provisions in Section 2502, delivery of technical assistance, which includes a process for the establishment of interim and new conservation practice standards. This process will help to speed the development and adoption of innovative conservation practices so that corn farmers have timely access to the latest, proven technologies and practices.



Bolstering U.S. international market development efforts

Dynamic USDA trade programs boost U.S. agricultural exports, are vital to the prosperity of U.S. agriculture and related business, increase the value of agriculture exports, and provide a high value of return on the investments. NCGA strongly supported the doubling of mandatory funding for USDA trade promotion programs in the OBBBA. Corn growers support the funding allocations for the existing Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program found in Section 3201 and appreciate the efforts made to ensure that the programs are efficient and effective.

NCGA also supports the transfer of the authorities of the Food for Peace Act to USDA from the U.S. Agency for International Development via Section 3101. Approximately \$96 million of U.S. corn and corn products is part of Food for Peace's global food distribution programs. The continuation of Food for Peace is an important part of strengthening relationships in developing countries that can result in market access for U.S. corn growers.

Strengthening the producer safety net and protecting federal crop insurance

In the Farm, Food, and National Security Act, corn growers support Section 1009 that clarifies eligibility for the storage facility loan program to include propane storage that is primarily used for agricultural production.

The OBBBA had multiple provisions to modify the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) commodity programs, including several recommendations from corn growers. While the OBBBA provides a one-time voluntary opportunity to add 30 million new base acres, which underpin the eligibility for the commodity programs, NCGA has concerns that the previous legislation did not provide enough new base acres or meaningful reforms and updates to existing base acres. NCGA continues to advocate for policies to ensure that commodity program eligibility and payments, via base acres, more accurately reflect growers' recent planting history.

With crop insurance consistently ranked as the number one farm bill priority for corn growers, NCGA will continue to oppose efforts to cut crop insurance programs or restrict producer accessibility to risk management tools.

Challenges in the Farm Economy Require Congressional Action

Corn growers appreciate the Committee on Agriculture for the efforts to advance the farm bill. Congress should also support rural America through additional short-term assistance for agriculture and long-term demand creation for corn. Immediate action can help address the significant economic hardship that has fallen on the agriculture industry. Corn growers are facing their fourth year of negative profitability, including an average loss of \$125 per acre for the current crop marketing year alone, resulting from trade disruption, persistently high input prices and foreign competition.



NCGA continues to encourage Congress to act immediately to pass pending legislation that would provide consumers nationwide with year-round access to fuel with 15% ethanol blends (E15). This action will help corn growers and the rural economy during this difficult time and will also address issues around affordability by lowering prices at the pump.

Corn growers would also like to expedite the bilateral binding trade agreements that the administration is brokering with other countries. These agreements promise to ensure measurable demand growth for corn and corn product exports, which would help provide welcome relief to growers.

NCGA supports further assistance for agriculture, as current programs do not fully meet the financial needs of growers during this critical lending and planning period ahead of planting the next crop.

Overall, corn growers appreciate the leadership of Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, and Members of the Committee for their service to agriculture and rural America. As the Committee considers the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, NCGA and our grower members appreciate consideration of our views. Corn growers would like to see this process move forward in a bipartisan manner and for a farm bill to be signed into law this year. NCGA and affiliated state associations will provide additional feedback to the Agriculture Committees and all Members of Congress as the legislative process moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jed Bower", is written over a light gray horizontal line.

Jed Bower
President
National Corn Growers Association

CC: Members of the House Committee on Agriculture