

The 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization is delayed. Since the 2018 Farm Bill was enacted on December 20, 2018, an extension has allowed authorized programs to continue through Sept. 30, 2024. USDA Farm Service Agency [assures](#) that “[the] Farm Bill continues its strong support for America’s farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards through a variety of safety net, farm loan, conservation, and disaster assistance program.” **However, our faith-based advocacy in the process remains active toward passing a 5-year Farm Bill.**

Due to a divided Congress, an agreement on FY24 [appropriations](#) has not been reached. Without appropriations for agriculture, Congress cannot advance the Farm Bill.

Committee leaders continue to express commitment to a bipartisan Farm Bill in 2024. Timing is a challenge. This year presents less time to do so in the midst of the 2024 elections, and ELCA advocacy staff note it is getting more likely that a Farm Bill may be delayed until 2025. The split environment of Congress also makes the bipartisan commitment, shared by Congressmen GT Thompson and David Scott and Senators Debbie Stabenow and John Boozman - the four leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees - more challenging.

### IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO NOW?

Make sure you’re talking about the importance of protecting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), humanitarian aid and environmental challenges and opportunities impacted by the Farm Bill. Right now, you can call your Congressional representatives with your experiences and concerns. A [template letter](#) is also available from [ELCA.org/Resources/Advocacy](https://ELCA.org/Resources/Advocacy) under the “Issues” tab.

Find [ELCA Farm Bill Asks](#) from [ELCA.org/Resources/Advocacy](https://ELCA.org/Resources/Advocacy) under the “Issues” tab. Contact ELCA advocacy staff for additional information or assistance at [washingtonoffice@ELCA.org](mailto:washingtonoffice@ELCA.org).

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