



Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act

The package includes the following bills to shore up the food and agriculture supply chain, assure fair competition in the meat and poultry sectors, and lower food and gasoline costs to the American consumer.

Ensuring Robust Competition in the Meat and Poultry Sector

H.R. 7606 – Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act

- Establishes an Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters in the Agriculture Secretary's Office.
- The Office of the Special Investigator would be headed by a high-ranking career attorney to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA). The Special Investigator would coordinate enforcement with USDA's Packers and Stockyards Division and Office of the General Counsel.
- The Special Investigator would also serve as a liaison to and consult with the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission regarding competition and trade practices, and coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security on national security and critical infrastructure security in the food and agriculture sector.
- The bill would also allow the USDA Special Investigator to bring civil or administrative action under the PSA instead of waiting on the Justice Department to take action based on USDA findings.
- Strengthening enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act will lead to greater competition in meat and poultry processing, fairer access to markets for producers, and more price stability for consumers.

Lowering Costs at the Grocery Store by Lowering Costs for Farmers

H.R. 7764 – To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide additional payments under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for implementation of nutrient management practices

- As producers across the country face skyrocketing fertilizer prices, we must help producers reduce their input costs so planting decisions are not impacted.
- With planning and purchases for next spring's planting season happening in just a few months, we want to ensure that producers have additional assistance as they make decisions for the 2023 crop season this fall.
- The bill would provide additional assistance to specialty and row crop producers who undertake USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service practice standards to more efficiently use fertilizers, do soil testing, or seek out other sources of plant nutrients.

H.R. 2518 – PRECISE Act - Producing Responsible Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the Environment

- We need to be encouraging precision agriculture to help farmers use fewer resources and use them smarter, with less impact on the environment.
- Expanding access to precision agriculture technology is critical now, as we face climate change and fertilizer costs that have doubled or almost tripled.
- An increased EQIP cost share will make precision agriculture practices more accessible to all producers.
- This bill includes up to a 90% loan guarantee in the Conservation Loan Program for precision agriculture activities and technology.
- The bill explicitly states precision agriculture eligibility in Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program.
- The bill allows a producer who receives payments under EQIP to also receive a conservation loan guarantee.
- The bill allows up to a 90 percent cost share for precision agriculture under EQIP.

- Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize the use of third-party providers for soil health planning technical assistance.

Empowering Farmers to Help Provide Fuel Choices and Lower Prices at the Pump

H.R. 1542 – Renewable Fuel Infrastructure Investment and Market Expansion Act of 2021

- The biofuels infrastructure provisions would help to deploy additional storage and dispensing equipment to ensure that higher ethanol blends and other biofuels are more readily available across the country.
- Similar portions of H.R. 1542 were included in the House-passed Build Back Better legislation.
- Further use of biofuels will reduce prices at the pump for all Americans and increase the supply of fuel available.
- Biofuels adoption and investment helps reduce our reliance on foreign oil and the supply shocks facing our gasoline supply while also bolstering a revenue stream for farmers across the country.

H.R. 4410 – Year-Round Fuel Choice Act of 2021

- Builds on a recent Biden Administration action allowing voluntary year-round sale of gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol, known as E-15 or Unleaded 88.
- Reduces the price at the pump for American drivers by giving consumers the choice to purchase a fuel that is substantially cheaper than standard gasoline.
- Does not mandate the production, sale, or use of E-15/Unleaded 88.

Strengthening the Food Supply Chain

H.R. 7675 – Strengthening the Agriculture and Food Supply Chain Act

- Breakdowns and bottlenecks in the food and agriculture supply chain, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, have been well documented and have caused significant losses and concerns to our agricultural constituents. These supply chain challenges are global and complex.

- The bill would create an Agricultural and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force at USDA, headed by a Special Advisor on Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response.
- The Task Force would report to Congress on their findings regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the agriculture and food supply chain including: identifying current and potential future critical bottlenecks in the food and agriculture supply chain, including transportation bottlenecks, workforce challenges and opportunities, and the stability and reliability of the agriculture and food supply system.
- The Task Force will also evaluate Federal, State, and local laws and regulations that increase or decrease the stability of the food and agriculture supply chain.
- Specific recommendations are also expected on long-term strategies, industry best practices, risk mitigation, and legislation and regulatory actions to positively impact the security and resilience of the food system.
- As reported out by the Agriculture Committee, the Task Force will conclude after submitting its report to Congress and the report will hopefully be available in time for the writing of the 2023 Farm Bill.

H.R. 4140 – Butcher Block Act

- A series of shocks to the beef supply chain, combined with a concentrated processing infrastructure, resulted in higher prices for meat at the grocery store and lower prices for producers.
- Increased processing capacity will alleviate some supply chain bottlenecks and provide producers with more options to market their cattle and receive a fair price. The supply chain will be more resilient and competitive long term as a result.
- The bill provides assistance to create new and expand current local and regional livestock and meat processing capacity with direct or guaranteed loans.
- The Butcher Block Act also creates a grant program to support governmental entities, public, private, cooperative, or tribal organizations to conduct activities that expand current processing capacity or strengthen the economic viability of new processors.