

Top Five Farm Bill Priorities

The North American Blueberry Council (NABC) supports a full five-year farm bill that strengthens the safety net, enhances competitiveness, and builds on the investment made by H.R. 1.

Disaster Assistance Programs

Tree Assistance Program

- Expand eligibility to include fields that are no longer economically viable.
- Provide a prepayment option.
- Extend the period of time to carry out replacement and rehabilitation activities.
- Allow for growers to replant using an alternative variety and/or stand density.
- Require FSA to respond to an application for assistance within 120 days.

Permanent Disaster Program Framework

- Establish a permanent, specialty crop-specific emergency framework based on CFAP-2 and MASC.
- Support producers through economic crises, natural disasters, and market disruptions.

Research

- Continue Specialty Crop Research Initiative and Block Grant Program.
- Set aside dedicated SCRI funds for mechanization and automation research.

Crop Insurance

- Create a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee within RMA.
- Add flexibility in 508(h) standards for specialty crops.
- Enhance data collection and codify improvements to Whole Farm Revenue Insurance.
- Develop revenue policy for blueberries and an index policy for cold weather events.

Export Market Development

- Double Market Access Program (MAP) funding from \$200M to \$400M.
- Additional funding for the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program and other trade programs to expand blueberry exports.

Nutrition

- Support Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) to increase purchasing power for fruits and vegetables, including Produce Prescription programs.

NABC is a proud member of the Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance - a national coalition of more than 200 organizations representing specialty crop producers - and strongly supports the Alliance's policy recommendations.