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Priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill

The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) is engaging grower members from across the country to prepare for the next Farm Bill. NAWG will continue to seek input from our members on programs that are working, areas where modifications are needed and refine our priorities. NAWG is engaging in discussions with Members of Congress, Congressional Committees, the Administration and our counterparts leading up to the reauthorization of the Farm Bill. As the House and Senate Agriculture Committees continue to review the 2018 Farm Bill, NAWG shares these priorities as we work towards reauthorizing the Farm Bill in 2023.

Farm Support Programs

- Crop insurance is a critical risk management tool for wheat growers. NAWG opposes any cuts to crop insurance that may jeopardize the capability of the partnership between the federal government and the private insurance industry to deliver risk protection to our members effectively.
- Recognizing the vital role of crop insurance in the farm safety net, NAWG supports enhancing crop insurance so it can remain affordable and increase its utility and effectiveness.
- The Title I farm safety net programs Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) play an important role for wheat farmers. However, NAWG recommends increasing the statutory reference price for wheat to help cover the increased cost of production.

Conservation

- Farm Bill Conservation programs provide wheat growers with a variety of voluntary approaches to adopt conservation practices that are appropriate for their operation. NAWG supports continued funding for financial and technical assistance through voluntary conservation cost-share programs.
- Voluntary conservation programs should be utilized for expanding the adoption and maintenance of conservation practices and commodity or crop insurance programs should not be utilized to deliver conservation assistance. Voluntary conservation programs should provide a wide range of conservation options for all producers in all climates and all regions of the country.
- There are ongoing challenges for USDA in addressing conservation compliance, including backlogs in wetland determinations and adequate staffing to support the current workload. NAWG opposes any efforts to expand conservation compliance.

General

- Given the current challenges facing agriculture, NAWG recommends Congress increase the budget authority to support Farm Bill programs. Farmers have experienced unprecedented volatility in agriculture markets and increased production costs in recent years, and this additional budget authority should be used to strengthen our food production safety nets.
- Wheat growers face various challenges each crop year and it is important they have predictable access to a variety of crop protection tools to enable conservation practice adoption and management and the production of a consistent, quality wheat crop to feed a growing world population.
- With half of all wheat grown in the U.S. destined for export, the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program significantly enhance agricultural exports. NAWG recommends doubling the funding for MAP and FMD to bolster these public-private partnerships.
- Farm Bill policies should support internal data sharing between USDA agencies while protecting the confidentiality and nonpublic disclosure of individual grower data.

As of June 2022