

# NPPC 2023 Farm Bill Priorities

Foreign Animal Disease Prevention and Market Access Protection



NPPC advocates for a 2023 Farm Bill that fully funds the programs that safeguard the nation's food supply against threats posed by foreign animal diseases, as well as key programs that expand foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products.

## The Situation

The U.S. pork industry has faced significant headwinds since 2018, when the farm bill was last reauthorized, due to trade retaliation, supply chain issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and looming threats of foreign animal disease. U.S. pig farmers need solutions to sustain an industry that supports more than 610,000 American jobs and generates nearly \$36 billion in personal income annually in rural America. The upcoming Farm Bill offers the opportunity to address the challenges and provide the industry with the tools it needs to prevent against further disruption.

## Protecting the Food Supply: Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Prevention

Pork producers continue to face increasing threats from FADs, including African swine fever (ASF). If a FAD outbreak were to occur, U.S. farmers would immediately turn to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), state animal health officials, and other stakeholders for: early detection, prevention and rapid response tools to address any potential animal disease outbreak; robust laboratory capacity for surveillance; and a viable stockpile of vaccines to rapidly respond to the intentional or unintentional introduction of a high-consequence disease like ASF. A FAD outbreak would immediately cripple the entire agricultural sector and result in the immediate loss of thousands of jobs.

The 2018 Farm Bill under Title XII, Section 12101 funded Animal Disease Prevention and Management actions to address FAD risks. NPPC urges continued funding for these critically important programs, specifically:

- > **National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB)** Established in the 2018 Farm Bill, this U.S.-only vaccine bank allows USDA to stockpile animal vaccines and related products to use in the event of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or other high-impact FADs. The bank ensures vaccines are available for rapid response in the case of an outbreak. Even a relatively minor outbreak of FMD in the United States would be devastating for pork producers, as well as for cattle, dairy and feed grain industries, inflicting billions of dollars per year in damages. It is also imperative that the NAVVCB is well funded in the event that vaccines for other high-consequence FADs, such as ASF, become viable.
- > **National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)** The NAHLN is a 59-member laboratory network that collaborates with the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) on disease monitoring. When a large-scale animal-disease outbreak occurs, it is a big challenge to track it and perform diagnostic tests on thousands of samples. The laboratory capacity of the NAHLN is critical to ensuring the United States can rapidly and effectively respond to an outbreak. Enhancing animal health diagnostic testing for both endemic and high-consequence pathogens in the nation's livestock and poultry vital to protecting animal health, public health and the nation's food supply. These laboratories are the first line of defense for detecting animal diseases and pathogens. Should FAD strike, diagnosing and detecting the extent of the outbreak as rapidly as possible plays a key role in responding to a disease and limiting the impact on producers.
- > **National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP)** This program allows APHIS to collaborate with animal health partners throughout the nation to implement high-value projects that enhance prevention, preparedness, detection and response to the most damaging emerging and FADs that threaten U.S. agriculture. Cooperative or interagency agreements between APHIS and states, universities, livestock producer organizations, tribal organizations, land-grant universities and other eligible entities are vital to addressing the risk of animal pests and diseases.

We invite you to learn more about policy issues to support and strengthen America's pork producers at [NPPC.org](https://www.nppc.org).

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> **National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS)** The NVS provides veterinary countermeasures (animal vaccines, antivirals, or therapeutic products, supplies, equipment, and response support services) that states, tribes, and territories need to respond to animal disease outbreaks. Depopulation is a key component of any FAD control effort, and adequate euthanasia equipment is critical to its success. Also critical is sampling and vaccination equipment. The NVS should be well-supplied to be able to step in if a large-scale outbreak requires resources beyond what states, tribes, or territories may have.

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## Feral Swine Eradication

The 2018 Farm Bill provided funding for the eradication and control of feral swine through the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP) in a joint effort between USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The 2018 Farm Bill included this new pilot program to help address the threat that feral swine pose to agriculture, ecosystems, and human and animal health.

The FSCP has been enormously successful. Given the role feral swine has played in the worldwide ASF pandemic, *funding for this program should be increased to continue reducing the population nationwide*. Feral swine eradication reduces the potential spread of FADs, including ASF.

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## Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection (AQI) Services User Fees

The AQI program, jointly administered by the USDA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is crucial to keeping invasive plant and animal pests and diseases out of the United States. This critical program is funded through user fees collected by APHIS from international travelers and commercial traffic.

In September 2022, as a result of a District of Columbia Circuit Court ruling, APHIS lost its 30-year authority to collect a surcharge through certain fees. The loss of this longstanding authority to collect reserve funds destabilizes AQI program funding and threatens the effectiveness of its programs. *NPPC urges Congress to restore this fundamental user fee authority to APHIS through the 2023 Farm Bill*.

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## National Detector Dog Training Center Authorization

To prevent the introduction of ASF and other FAD into the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture has used discretionary authority to operate the National Detector Dog Training Center. The center is the primary training facility for the so-called "Beagle Brigade" of the AQI program and other agricultural canine teams that help protect America's natural resources and agriculture producers from foreign animal and plant diseases and pests. The Beagle Brigade is crucial to securing the country against ASF in particular, as the disease has gained a foothold in the Western Hemisphere for the first time in 40 years. *Congress must include statutory authorization for the National Detector Dog Training Center to strengthen the biosecurity measures at ports of entry by including the Beagle Brigade Act (S.759/H.R.1480 118th Congress) in any farm bill*.

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## Expanding Market Access

Pork exports account for over \$61 in value for each hog marketed – about 30 percent of total sales value of a hog significantly adding to the bottom line of each U.S. pork producer. Opening new and expanding existing markets is vital to the continued success of the U.S. pork industry. In 2022 the U.S. exported over \$7.6 billion in pork and pork products to over 100 countries.

Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) are programs administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). These two programs are designed to build commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural products through generic marketing and promotion and the reduction of foreign import constraints. While NPPC does not engage in international marketing, we understand the tremendous value these programs bring to the development of international markets – for every \$1 spent on MAP and FMD programs U.S. agriculture saw \$24.50 in export gains and contributed to the creation of 225,800 full-and part-time jobs across the U.S. economy. Between 1977 and 2019, MAP and FMD have added an average of \$9.6 billion annually to the value of U.S. agricultural exports, equal to nearly \$648 billion, or 13.7 percent, in additional export revenue. We are strong advocates for increased funding for these programs through the Farm Bill. *NPPC is requesting MAP funding of \$400 million a year and FMD funding of \$69 million a year in the 2023 Farm Bill*.

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