

Farm Bill Priorities

CA Proposition 12, Foreign Animal Disease Prevention and Market Access Protection



NPPC advocates for a farm bill that addresses the challenges and chaos posed by laws like California Proposition 12, 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. ag products.

The Situation

The U.S. pork industry has faced significant headwinds since 2018, when the farm bill was last reauthorized, due to arbitrary regulatory burdens, 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 573,000 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 protect against further disruption.

California Proposition 12

Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack testified before the House Agriculture Committee, *"If we don't take this issue seriously, we're going to have chaos in the marketplace."* (2/14/24)

Former President Trump replied to an American Farm Bureau Questionnaire, *"I will use all authority under the Constitution and U.S. law to stop efforts by California – or other states – that hurt American farmers in other states. I will also direct the Department of Justice and the Department of Agriculture to actively monitor – and strongly oppose – any further efforts to limit the ability of American farmers to sell their products anywhere in this great country."* (9/14/24)

A 2018 California ballot initiative, Proposition 12, prohibits the sale of uncooked whole pork meat not produced according to the state's arbitrary housing dimensions. The ban applies to uncooked whole pork meat from the offspring of female pigs (sows) kept on farms that don't meet minimum square footage requirements or that confine sows in individual stalls smaller than prescribed dimensions. Proposition 12 prohibits critical breeding stalls that allow sows to recover after delivering and nursing piglets and protect them while they are most vulnerable to aggression from other animals. The initiative places the cost and compliance burden on pork producers, who are nearly all located outside of California, and puts the industry at risk of significant consolidation. The Supreme Court of the United States has said this is an issue for Congress to solve.

NPPC urges inclusion of a Prop. 12 fix in any final farm bill.

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

Pork producers continue to face increasing threats from FADs, including African swine fever (ASF). An FAD outbreak would cripple the entire agricultural sector and result in the immediate loss of thousands of jobs. U.S. farmers would rely on federal and state animal health officials to coordinate the response, with the goals being continuity of business and resumption of trade. The resources and programs funded in the 2018 Farm Bill under Title XII, Section 12101 continue to be critical needs.

The resources and programs, funded in the 2018 Farm Bill under Title XII, Section 12101, continue to be critical needs. *NPPC urges funding for important animal health 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 (including diagnostic test kits) 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, sheep, goat, and feed grain industries, inflicting billions of dollars per year in damages. It is also imperative that the NAVVCB is well funded to accommodate future vaccines that are developed for other high-consequence diseases, such as ASF.

- > **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. Sufficient laboratory capacity within the NAHLN is critical to ensuring the United States can rapidly and effectively respond to an outbreak. Diagnostic testing for both endemic and high-consequence pathogens is 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.
- > **National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP)** This program allows USDA-APHIS to collaborate with animal health partners throughout the country in ways that continue improving our preparedness and response capabilities. Collaboration between APHIS and the states, universities, livestock producer organizations, tribal organizations, land-grant universities and other eligible entities, is vital to addressing the risk of animal pests and diseases at various levels.
- > **National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS)** The NVS provides veterinary countermeasures is a resource for supplies, equipment, and response support services that states, tribes, and territories may need to respond to animal disease outbreaks.

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 play in ASF outbreaks around the world, *this program must be made permanent, and funding should be increased to continue reducing the population nationwide.* Feral swine eradication reduces the potential spread of FADs, including ASF.

Expanding Market Access

Exports create significant value opportunities for the U.S. pork industry. In 2023 the U.S. exported over \$8.16 billion in pork and pork products to over 100 countries, export value equates to \$64 in value from each hog that was marketed in 2023, up 4% from 2022. Opening new and expanding existing markets is vital to the continued success of the U.S. pork industry.

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 Farm Bill.

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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