



Advancing soil health policies & programs
that create value for farmers, businesses,
and communities.

**FEDERAL SOIL HEALTH LEGISLATION UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2022
FROM THE LAND CORE BILL TRACKER**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Here's your Sept 2022 Federal Soil Health Legislation update (visit [Land Core's Bill Tracker](#) to see all tracked soil health bills). [Sign up](#) to get these monthly updates directly in your inbox.

Spotlight: Inflation Reduction Act Passed With Funding for Soils

[H.R.5376 - Inflation Reduction Act](#): Since our last alert, this bill was signed into law! It includes \$20 billion for agriculture conservation programs, including \$8.45 billion for EQIP (while removing the 50% livestock set-aside, and doubling CIG funding to \$50 million), \$3.25 billion for CSP, \$1.4 billion for ACEP, and \$6.75 billion for RCPP, as well as \$1 billion for Conservation Technical Assistance, and \$300 million for a new NRCS carbon sequestration and GHG emissions quantification program. Focus has now turned to implementation by USDA. See tracker - [Passed tab](#).

New Bills:

[H.R.8706 - Agricultural Management Assistance Modernization Act of 2022](#):

Introduced by Rep. Kahele (D-HI-2) on September 19, 2022, this bill would update USDA-NIFA's Agriculture Risk Management Education Partnerships Program (ARME), which provides competitive grants for risk management education for producers, to triple funding for the program, make nonprofits eligible for funding, provide language translation, and educate insurance providers (especially with respect to whole farm insurance plans), as well as to make **soil health improvements**, establish perennial crops, integrate livestock, and other practices eligible for risk management financial assistance. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

[H.R.9121 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for abatement and sequestration of carbon dioxide equivalent through agricultural methods](#): This bill was introduced by Rep. Ryan (D-OH-13) on 9/30. See tracker - [Core tab](#).

[H.R.8596/S.4895 - Biochar Research Network Act of 2022](#): This bipartisan bill, introduced on 7/29 by Rep. Miller-Meeks (R-IA-2) and 9/20 by Sen. Grassley (R-IA), respectively, directs USDA to establish a national biochar research network of up to 20 research sites (State or Department experiment stations or research facilities) to test biochar types across soil types and conditions, application methods, and regions. Provides \$50 million annually through 2028. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

[H.R.8802 - Public Lands and Waters Climate Leadership Act of 2022](#): This bill, introduced on Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ-3) on 9/13, requires the Secretary of the Interior and the Chief of the Forest Service to align management of public lands and waters with the President's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. It could create an opportunity for regenerative land management initiatives, especially for grazing, on public lands. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

[S.5007 - A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation program, and for other purposes](#): This bipartisan bill was introduced by Sen. Fischer (R-NE) on 9/29. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

[H.R.9047 - To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish a precision agriculture loan program, and for other purposes](#): This bipartisan bill was introduced by Rep. Feenstra (R-IA-4) on 9/29. Bill text is forthcoming. Given that precision agriculture is aimed at improving efficiency and reducing input use, we will be watching for specified efficiency or input reduction standards in the bill text. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

[S.4884 - Natural Infrastructure Act of 2022](#): This bill, introduced on 9/19 by Sen. Hirono (D-HI) directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish a joint natural infrastructure science program that would work closely with educational institutions to produce research about natural infrastructure. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

[S.4877 - Civilian Conservation Center Enhancement Act of 2022](#): This bipartisan bill, introduced by Sen. Merkley (D-OR), would direct DOI and USDA to start offering curriculum and courses at Civilian Conservation Centers on topics relevant to soil health, watershed and habitat enhancement, and range management, as well as offer specialized training programs in rangeland management and similar topics. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

Bills Moving Through Congress:

[H.R.8425 - Agriculture Skills Preparation for Industry Recruitment Efforts \(ASPIRE\) Act](#): This bipartisan bill, introduced by Rep Emmer (R-MN-6), which would establish an agriculture training program within the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (within which there is opportunity to focus on soil health training), was referred to the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research on 8/15. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

[S.3531 - National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act](#): This bipartisan bill, introduced by Sen. Coons (D-DE), which would require the Federal Government to produce a national climate adaptation and resilience strategy, was ordered to be reported by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. See tracker - [Ancillary tab](#).

New Legislator Support:

Below is a list of Members who have recently added their names and support to tracked bills. Use the [Legislators tab](#) to see the bills your representative is supporting, and find their contact information.

- **Core Bills (new cosponsors, August & September 2022):**

- [H.R.8590 - Small Family Farmer and Rancher Relief Act](#): Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12) (9/28) joined 1 other.
- [H.R.8069 - Reducing Farm Input Costs and Barriers to Domestic Production Act](#): Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA-14) (8/5), Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO-8) (8/26), Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN-6) (8/30), Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-8) (8/30), Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN-8) (9/2), Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN-1) (9/2), and Rep. Gregory Murphy (R-NC-3) (9/14) joined 42 others.
- [S.3892 - Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\) Improvement Act of 2022](#): Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) (9/12) joined 1 other.
- [H.R.4421 - Farm System Reform Act of 2021](#): Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-27) (8/30) and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-8) (9/19) joined 38 others.
- [H.R.2820 - Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021](#): Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-VA-10) (8/9), Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH-13) (8/9), Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL-5) (8/9), and Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA-3) (8/9) joined 85 others.
- [S.1458 - Cover Crop Flexibility Act of 2021](#): Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) (9/12) joined 4 others.
- [H.R.2803 - Agriculture Resilience Act of 2021](#): Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL-21) (9/13) and Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12) (9/20) joined 45 others.
- [H.R.2757 - Climate Agricultural Conservation Practices Act](#): Rep. Anthony Brown (D-MD-4) (8/12) and Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI-13) joined as the first cosponsors.
- **Ancillary bills (new cosponsors, August & September 2022):**
 - [H.R.8425 - Agriculture Skills Preparation for Industry Recruitment Efforts \(ASPIRE\) Act](#): Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE-2) (9/13) joined 2 others.
 - [H.R.7865 - Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2022](#): Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL-12) (9/13) joined 1 other.
 - [H.R.7827 - Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act of 2022](#): Rep. Jesus Garcia (D-IL-4) (8/2) joined 7 others.
 - [H.R.5459 - School Food Recovery Act of 2021](#): Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL-21) (9/13), Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL-17) (9/20), and Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-3) (9/20) joined 9 others.
 - [S.1328 - Farm to School Act of 2021](#): Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) (8/3) joined 8 others.

Relevant Hearings Held:

[Soil Health Practices and Programs that Support Regenerative Agriculture](#): This hearing was held by the House Agriculture Committee on 9/14.

[A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Stakeholder Perspectives on Title II Conservation Programs](#): This hearing was held by the House Agriculture Committee on 9/20.

Are we missing anything? [Let us know](#) if there is a bill of interest that we have not added to our Bill Tracker. Share these Soil Health Legislation Updates with a friend or colleague, [explore the archive](#), and [sign up](#) to get these updates directly in your inbox.

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