



Farm Bill Platform

New Funds for Climate Should Invest in Equitable Payments Above Costs

RIPE is a producer-led organization advancing a fair value for voluntary agricultural stewardship. Our vision is for agricultural producers and communities to benefit in a system that aligns economic incentives with voluntary practices that enhance our soil, water and climate. The farm bill can use new climate funds to invest in equitable payments above costs without competing with existing programs.

Farm Bill Platform

A portion of **funds** provided by Congress for climate-smart agriculture through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 should be invested in a **voluntary** conservation program with **simple enrollment** that enables producers, **including early adopters**, to **earn equitable payments above implementation costs**. Minimum payments would include economic losses during transition to new practices and increasing production costs. The approved practices will help increase resilience and adaptation while delivering public benefits — such as soil health, greenhouse gas reduction, clean water, water conservation, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation — that exceed payment value. The **funding for this program should not compete with existing funding** for farm bill programs.

Practical Way to Deliver Conservation Solutions

RIPE offers a practical and well-developed roadmap to implementing conservation solutions for farmers and ranchers based on their evolving needs and challenges that is in alignment with other climate-smart agriculture advocates. For example, Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance (FACA) recommends to “support streamlined adoption of cropland conservation practices ... through financial incentives ... and assist with reduction of soil erosion ... reduce GHG emissions, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat ... This approach would be in addition to and not replace existing working lands conservation programs.”

RIPE Leadership

RIPE’s leadership includes agricultural leaders from across the country and includes a producer-led Board, Steering Committee, Farmer Advisory Network, and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Committee.



Preferred by Farmers & Rural America

- **Farmers:** 78% prefer payments for soil, water and carbon over payments solely for carbon.
- **Rural Republicans:** 39% support government spending on climate, while 77% support government incentives for farmers to address climate change.
- **Rural Democrats:** 94% support government spending on climate, while 98% support government incentives for farmers to address climate change.

Citations: 1. Farm Journal's Trust in Food poll commissioned by RIPE, 2021; 2. Robert Bonnie, "Rural Attitudes on Climate Policy," Duke University, 2020; 3. Ibid

Key Principles & Components

- **Voluntary.**
- **Does not compete with funding** for farm safety net nor conservation programs. The program would launch with funds authorized in the IRA for climate-smart ag programs and can expand through new climate funds that may be proposed in the future.
- **Investment opportunity that goes beyond cost-share limitations to payments above costs, enabling a reasonable return to producers and the public.** This program will develop opportunities for producers to earn a reasonable return on their investments in public benefits, just as the renewable energy sector does. The minimum payment will surpass the combined costs of practice adoption, maintenance and economic loss during transition. Maximum payments will align with the environmental value delivered, ensuring a return on investment to both the public and producers.
- **Accessible to all types and sizes of producers, including early adopters, with easy, streamlined enrollment and limited-resource producer provisions.** All agricultural producers will be eligible to participate, so there will be no applicant ranking. There may be caps based on available funding. There will be provisions, including a 125% bonus payment and minimum payments, for limited-resource/beginning and socially disadvantaged producers.
- **Complements existing biofuels and private carbon or ecosystem services markets.** This program will not "claim the environmental asset." It will allow producers to participate in private and public programs. This offers a path for producers to report scope 3 greenhouse gas levels in a manner that provides them an economic incentive.
- **Provides greater GHG benefits than the default use of funds.** RIPE's proposal can reduce GHG by an estimated 22-36% more than the default IRA plan by dedicating some funds to livestock and methane practices that have higher GHG per dollar impacts.

To advance this platform, please contact:
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To learn more, visit www.RIPEroadmap.org.