



# Farm Bill Platform

## Equitable Payments Above Costs to Scale Voluntary Conservation Adoption

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 build the conservation program baseline and invest in equitable payments above costs.

### Farm Bill Platform

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Conservation programs for working lands should include a simple enrollment and enable 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 opportunities — that exceed payment value.

### Practical Way to Deliver Conservation Solutions

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RIPE offers a practical and well-developed roadmap to implementing conservation solutions for farmers and ranchers based on their evolving needs and challenges 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

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RIPE’s leadership comprises 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

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- **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

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- **Voluntary.**
- **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 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.

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To help advance this platform, please contact:  
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To learn more, visit [www.RIPEroadmap.org](http://www.RIPEroadmap.org).