Tennessee boasts 66,600 farms that cover 10,800,000 acres. In 2015, sales of farm and ranch products contributed $4.1 billion to the state’s economy.

The farm bill touches everyone in Tennessee in numerous ways. It is targeted to farmers and ranchers, used to support infrastructure and economic development in rural communities, incentivizes maintenance of good conservation practices and helps provide access to food for those less fortunate and breakfasts and lunches for school children.

The farm bill provides a safety net to farmers and ranchers during difficult times.

From 2009 to 2015, USDA invested more than $3.3 billion in Tennessee for programs that provide access to credit, support a strong farm safety net, and promote new markets for farm and ranch products.

In 2016, Tennessee farmers and ranchers received:

- **$7,381,915** in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs that provide revenue and price loss payments to eligible producers;
- **$84,573,906** in commodity loans to eligible producers who use their crops as collateral;
- **$8,123,832** in Cotton Ginning Cost-Share Program payments to provide cost-share assistance payments to cotton producers;
- **$35,802,373** in Loan Deficiency Payments to help producers who agree to forgo a commodity loan in return for a payment on the eligible commodity.

The farm bill provides credit to beginning farmers and ranchers and to those who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit elsewhere.

In 2016, Tennessee received $117.4 million in farm loans including:

- **$64,985,631** from the guaranteed loan program. USDA guarantees loans made by conventional ag lenders for up to 95% of any loss. In 2016, USDA guaranteed 62 farm ownership loans, 70 operating loans, 59 loans to beginning farmers and 7 guaranteed loans targeted to underserved producers;
$45,934,085 in direct loan programs that are provided to those unable to obtain guaranteed loans. In 2016, USDA funded 140 farm ownership loans and 586 operating loans that included 63 youth loans, 347 direct loans to beginning farmers and 118 direct loans targeted to underserved producers; and

$6,477,050 in microloans which are direct farm ownership and operating loans designed to meet the needs of smaller, non-traditional and niche type operations. In 2016, 263 microloans were made.

The farm bill provides funding for conservation programs to help farmers and ranchers keep land in production while improving the condition of natural resources.

From 2009 to 2015, USDA invested $565 million to conserve and protect Tennessee’s land, water and air resources.

In 2015, Tennessee received conservation assistance including:

- $26.8 million in Environmental Quality Incentive Payments to provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve their land;
- $7.3 million in Conservation Stewardship Program payments that supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands by providing payments and technical assistance for maintaining and enhancing natural resources; and
- $14.8 million to enroll 139,150 acres in Conservation Reserve Program to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality of the soil.

The farm bill helps fund a portion of the crop insurance programs purchased by farmers to provide a safety net for times of price and weather disasters.

In 2015, 68% of all eligible acres were insured under the crop insurance program. In Tennessee, this included:

- 2.8 million acres or cropland;
- acres were enrolled in the Pasture, Rangeland and Forest program and in indemnities were paid;
- $62.7 million in government-paid premium discounts to make the crop insurance policies more affordable for producers; and
- $47.2 million in crop insurance indemnities.
The farm bill provides authority for several ad hoc disaster assistance programs to help producers suffering from maladies such as droughts, floods, freezes, fires and tornadoes.

In 2016, Tennessee received $3.7 million in supplemental and ad hoc disaster assistance including:

- **$780,500** in Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters;
- **$476,800** in Livestock Indemnity Program payments that provide partial reimbursements to eligible livestock owners for livestock losses suffered due to natural disaster or other emergencies;
- **$1.4 million** in the Livestock Forage Disaster Program to compensate eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pasture land with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing; and
- **$20,000** for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program to provide emergency assistance to eligible producers that have losses due to diseases or adverse weather.

The farm bill promotes agricultural exports.

In 2015, exports of farm and ranch products contributed **$1.5 billion** to the Tennessee economy.

The farm bill supports producers of fruits and vegetables.

Tennessee received **$3.7 million** from the Farm Bill Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to use on 83 projects to increase competitiveness and profitability of producers from 2008 to 2015.

- In 2015, Tennessee received **$3.7 million** to fund the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program to be used in 163 elementary schools; and
- USDA helps promote farmer’s markets through promotion programs and extra funding for the purchase of fruits and vegetables at Tennessee’s 130 farmers’ markets.
The Farm Bill provides opportunities for better health for Tennessee citizens.

In 2016:

- **64,765,854 breakfasts** were served to **395,114** children in the school breakfast program;
- **109,999,692 lunches** were served to **671,671** children in the school lunch program;
- **143,730 people** participated in the Women, Infants and Children Program; and
- **1,064,416 people** were assisted by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The farm bill helps support economic development for rural areas of the state.

From 2009 to 2015, USDA invested **$5.5 billion** to support affordable housing, create jobs and promote economic opportunity for those who live, work and raise their families in rural Tennessee.

The farm bill provides funding to promote infrastructure.

These development programs include assistance for expanding and improving broadband and telecommunications, water and wastewater, electricity and construction of community facilities like fire stations and libraries. From 2009 to 2015, USDA invested **$1.2 billion** in infrastructure development.

Despite its name, the farm bill affects far more than the small population of Americans who work as farmers or ranchers.