

Name: _____

Farm Bill Project

As you have explored the Growing a Nation timeline, you have spent time looking at the ways in which the United States government has impacted agriculture through policies and programs. For this final activity, you will be using all of the information that you have gathered in the previous activities to create the NEXT version of the farm bill.

STAGE 1: Critically Thinking the ‘Information Age’

Before you can begin to craft the next iteration of the farm bill, you need to learn about the issues, items, and events that have impacted agriculture during the “Information Age.” This will help you be purposeful in implementing programs and policies within a new farm bill. As you take an in-depth look at all of the events from the “Information Age” timeline, answer the following questions:

1. What (if any) new technologies and developments in science are changing the fields of farming and ranching? What (if any) regulations/deregulations need to be considered?
2. What responsibility does the United States have to help feed 10 billion people projected to inhabit the Earth in 2050? What role does sustainability and climate change play in meeting these needs?
3. What role does trade and tariffs play in agriculture in this era? What policies and programs impact trade both within the United States and internationally?
4. Whose voices are heard and whose voices are missing from farm bills in the past? Who should have a say in what is included in the new farm bill? Why should these people’s voices be included?
5. What is missing from previous farm bills that should be included in the new farm bill? Are there rules, laws, or guidance that the previous farm bills have failed to include that should be included in the new iteration of the bill considering the events of the “Information Age?”

STAGE 3: Begin Identifying Changes

It is time to begin crafting the new farm bill. Your next step is to look at the current bill and add your thoughts and ideas to the existing policy. A summary of “The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018” can be found at-- <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2/summary>, the full law can be found at-- <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2>. Use the 2018 documents and the graphic organizers below to record and organize your thoughts. Your rationales will assist you in convincing your colleagues that your bill should become a law.

Items to KEEP from the current farm bill	Explain Your Rationale

Continue on next page



Items to SUBTRACT from the current farm bill	Explain Your Rationale

New items to ADD to the next farm bill	Explain Your Rationale

STAGE 4: Draft a Summary

The final step is to create a summary of your new farm bill. In this summary you will want to highlight the changes you have made from the previous farm bill, as well as, things that you believe will most impact agriculture. For an example of a summary of a bill please see the summary for the 2018 bill found at-- <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2/summary>.

As you create your summary, you will also need to write a speech (three minutes in length) to be given on the floor of congress (to your classmates) to convince your colleagues to vote for your bill. While writing the bill's summary and your speech please keep in mind that you will want to use professional language and writing, paying attention to correct grammar, as well as, spelling, and punctuation.

Questions to consider while writing the bill's summary:

1. Who is the audience? Who are you speaking to and what is the purpose of this summary?
2. How have the events of the "Information Age" played a role in your bill?
3. What changes/additions/subtractions have you made from the 2018 farm bill?

Questions to consider while writing your speech:

1. How will this bill change people's lives? What area of people's lives will be impacted (e.g., planting, harvesting, transporting, trade, consumption)?
2. Why should your bill be passed? What items stand-out within your bill and how will they impact citizens of the United States (e.g., farmers, ranchers, communities, families, scientists, engineers, companies)?
3. Who will benefit from this bill's passage? How will these people benefit from your bill?