

**Subject:** Why the Farm Bill Is a Big Deal

**Story Summary:** Congress has started the big job of writing a new Farm Bill. In this story, farmers from around the country explain what the legislation does and why it is important to U.S. agriculture and consumers.

**TRT:** 1:43

**Suggested Lead:** Congress has started debate on legislation that will impact the future of agriculture in the United States. Johnna Miller explains the importance of the Farm Bill.

**Suggested Supers:**

Bob Stallman  
President  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
@ :18

Washington, D.C.  
@ :29

Barry Bushue  
Oregon Farmer  
@ :51

Ron Warfield  
Illinois Farmer  
@ 1:22

Johnna Miller  
Reporting  
@ 1:34

**Why the Farm Bill Is a Big Deal**  
**Johnna Miller Reporting**  
**July 26, 2001**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Combine harvesting wheat<br>Closeup of combine threshing   | VO/<br>IT'S A BUSY TIME ON MOST FARM OPERATIONS – AS ALWAYS, LOTS OF WORK TO BE DONE.  |
| Tilt from wheat to combine cab<br>Dissolve to Capitol Dome<br>House ag committee hearing<br>Shot of corn harvesting  | VO/<br>STILL, MANY FARMERS WILL FIND TIME TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO WORK BEING DONE ON CAPITOL HILL. CONGRESS HAS STARTED TO WRITE A NEW FARM BILL, AND FOR U.S. AGRICULTURE, THAT'S A BIG DEAL.   |
| Soundbite<br><br><b>Bob Stallman</b><br><b>President</b><br><b>American Farm Bureau Federation</b>   | SOT/<br>THE PURPOSE OF THE FARM BILL IN THIS COUNTRY IS TO ASSIST PRODUCERS IN MAINTAINING THEIR AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND CONTINUING TO PRODUCE THE ABUNDANT FOOD AND FIBER THAT WE HAVE IN THIS COUNTRY.   |
| Locator- <b>Washington, D.C.</b><br><br>Farm Bureau presidents in meeting<br><br>A Farm Bureau president walking up steps<br><br>pan from state seal to hand shaking in congressional office | VO/<br>FARM BUREAU PRESIDENTS, REPRESENTING FARMERS NATIONWIDE, RECENTLY GATHERED IN WASHINGTON. A PRIMARY GOAL FOR MANY WAS TO TALK TO THEIR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE WHITE HOUSE ABOUT HOW TO FIX THE STRUGGLING FARM ECONOMY. THE FARM BILL IS ONE WAY THE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO DO THAT. |
| Wheat being dumped into truck  | VO/<br>FOREMOST THE LEGISLATION TRIES TO PROTECT FARMERS FROM THE LOW PRICES THAT HAVE PLAGUED THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY IN RECENT YEARS.   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Soundbite</p> <p><b>Barry Bushue</b><br/><b>Oregon Farmer</b></p>   | <p>SOT/<br/>WE'RE NOT PRICE MAKERS. WE'RE PRICE TAKERS AND THEREFORE THERE IS NOTHING FOR US TO FALL BACK ON IF WE DON'T HAVE SOME KIND OF SAFETY NET.</p>  |
| <p>Corn falling into a bin</p>   | <p>VO/<br/>TO TRY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL MARKETS, THE LEGISLATION PROMOTES TRADE FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.</p>  |
| <p>Research lab</p> <p>Shot of small town street</p> <p>Grocery store aisle</p>  | <p>VO/<br/>IT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR VALUABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH; CONTAINS INITIATIVES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUDES FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS, LIKE FOOD STAMPS.</p>  |
| <p>Shot of stream</p>  | <p>VO/<br/>THE FARM BILL ALSO GOVERNS CONSERVATION PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT.</p>   |
| <p>Shot of stream buffer</p> <p>Soundbite</p> <p><b>Ron Warfield</b><br/><b>Illinois Farmer</b></p>  | <p>SOT/<br/>THERE'S BEEN A LONG-TERM BENEFIT FROM THE ORIGINAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS. THAT IS FARMERS OUT ON THE LAND AND IMPLEMENTING THE KINDS OF POLICIES THAT PROVIDE BETTER SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY.</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Johnna Miller</b><br/><b>Reporting</b></p> <p>Farmer in cotton combine</p> <p>Med of cotton and focus changes to combine</p> <p>Wide shot of harvest</p> | <p>VO/<br/>MOST FARMERS HOPE FOR A DAY WHEN THEY WILL NO LONGER NEED A FARM BILL TO MAKE A LIVING. BUT FOR NOW, BY HELPING FARMERS STAY ON THE LAND, THE FARM BILL HELPS EVERYONE – AT LEAST EVERYONE WHO EATS. FROM WASHINGTON, I'M JOHNNA MILLER.</p> |