



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, July 23, 2023

The 2023 Farm Bill: An Opportunity to Address Hunger, Food Access, and Climate Resilience

“Far too many people experience hunger in our wealthy nation—including 12 million children who are food insecure. And around the world, the number of people who are severely hungry has increased by 33 percent. Climate change threatens to increase these numbers. As global temperatures and extreme weather events rise, the conditions make it more difficult for farmers to grow food and for those facing hunger to get it. Our current agricultural system contributes to these joint crises—prioritizing corporations’ profits over people and our planet.” (*Mercy Justice Team, 7/5/23*)

“The farm bill is a package of legislation passed roughly once every five years that has a tremendous impact on farming livelihoods, how food is grown, and what kinds of foods are grown. Covering programs ranging from crop insurance for farmers to healthy food access for low-income families, from beginning farmer training to support for sustainable farming practices, the farm bill sets the stage for our food and farm systems. As a leading advocate for family farmers and sustainable agriculture, it’s our job to make sure that this important bill is good for farmers, consumers, and for the natural environment.” (*National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition*)

“The 2023 Farm Bill is a critical opportunity to improve food security and nutrition for people and promote climate resilience in the U.S. and across the world. As Congress begins working on this important legislation, we must urge them to prioritize the needs of our communities and the climate.... These include:

- ☼ Expand access to SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs and remove barriers to accessing vital food assistance to prevent hunger.
- ☼ Fund small-scale farmers, regenerative agriculture, and climate-friendly practices, from planting to packaging to delivery.
- ☼ Eliminate food waste and invest in urban agricultural projects that allow all people access to locally grown, sustainable fresh food.
- ☼ Protect the dignity, health, and safety of those responsible for working the land.
- ☼ Fund international programs that train farmers to adapt to climate change and provide emergency and developmental support to more than 4 billion people around the world.

This is our chance to improve this crucial legislation. **It’s time for Congress to invest in long-term solutions that address hunger, food access, and climate resilience.**” (Sr. Danielle Bonetti, CSJ, -- Petition naming priorities for 2023 Farm Bill)

[Sign the petition to Congress: Address hunger, food access, and climate resilience in the 2023 Farm Bill.](#)

“Amen I say to you: Whatever you did for one of the least of my brethren, you did it for me.” (Mt 25:40)