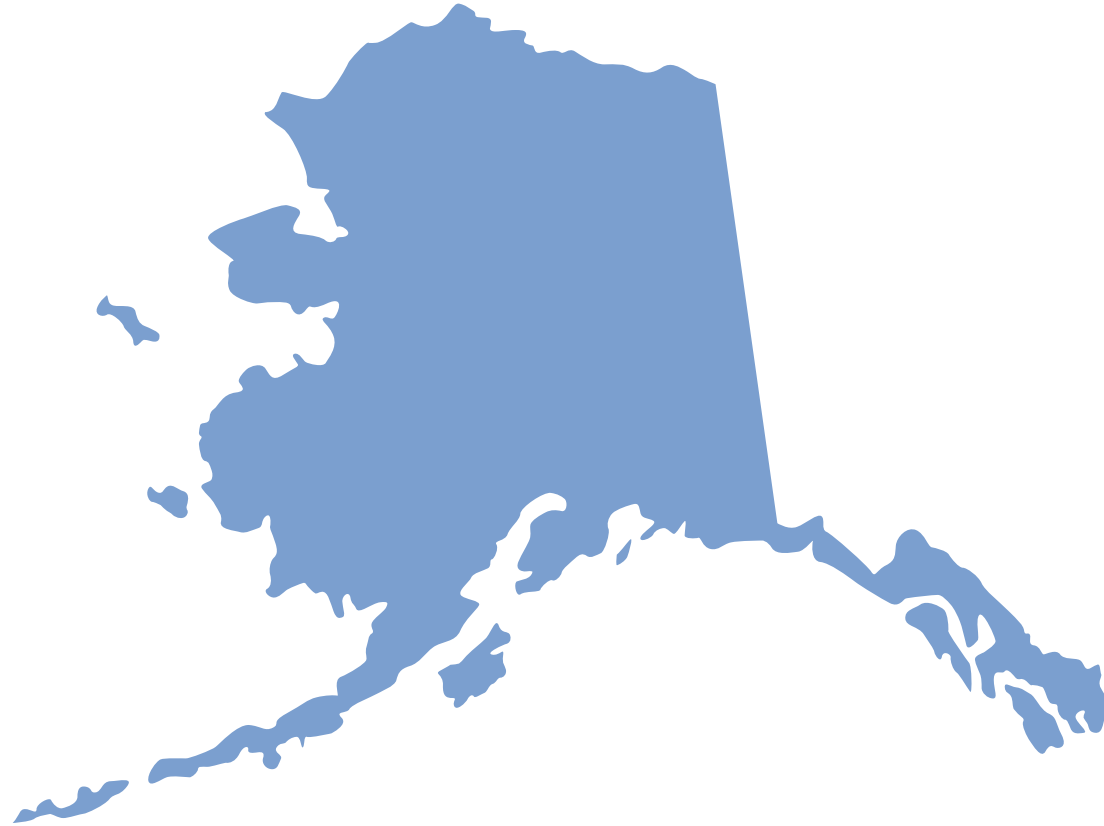


Alaska Farm Bill Priorities

NFBC Roundtables, 2022



Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative
NFBC Research Partner

Alaska Farm Bill Priorities

NFBC Roundtables, 2022

Attendee(s) concern:

Fisheries/Aquaculture/Shellfish

- Include aquaculture in crop insurance programs
- more representation of fisheries and shellfish production in farm bill overall



The feedback helped support the following marker bills that will be part of the discussion for the next Farm Bill:

- *S. 2354 – Improving Agriculture, Research, Cultivation Timber and Indigenous Commodities (ARTIC) Act* – hopes to improve access for food processing for producers and strengthen Alaska's, and others', seafood industry.
- *H.R. 4013 – Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture (AQUAA) Act* – promotes the development of a sustainable marine aquaculture industry, advances the access to investment capital, and reduces the U.S. seafood trade deficit by expanding the domestic supply of seafood.
- *H.R. 5087 – Supporting Equity for Aquaculture and Seafood (SEAS) Act* – instructs USDA to develop a policy to consider aquaculture products eligible for coverage under federal crop insurance. It requires fair consideration of seafood and aquaculture producers for USDA programming compared to traditional land-animal farmers, requires the Secretary to ensure adequate funding is made available for aquaculture producers, and establishes a grant program to develop more efficient gear and equipment for aquaculture and seafood industry.



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Alaska Farm Bill Priorities

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Attendee(s) concern:

- More overall support for small-scale producers, including access to land and facilities to expand/increase production



The feedback helped support the following marker bills that will be part of the discussion for the next Farm Bill:

- *H.R. 4013 – Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture (AQUAA) Act* – promotes the development of a sustainable marine aquaculture industry, advances the access to investment capital, and reduces the U.S. seafood trade deficit by expanding the domestic supply of seafood.



Alaska Farm Bill Priorities

NFBC Roundtables, 2022

Attendee(s) concern:

- Better access and transparency in terms of USDA programs and available funding/support



The feedback helped support the following marker bills that will be part of the discussion for the next Farm Bill:

- *H.R. 5113 – Rural Economic-development Assistance and Consultation to Help our Tribes Act* – requires USDA to consult with Tribal governments on the annual budget, Farm Bill, and other priorities.
- *S. 2354 – Improving Agriculture, Research, Cultivation, Timber, and Indigenous Commodities (ARTIC) Act* – hopes to improve access for food processing for producers and strengthen Alaska's, and others', seafood industry.
- *H.R. 5162 – Parity for Alaska and Native Hawaiian Students in Agriculture Act* – extends education grant programs for Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions.



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Attendee(s) concern:

- Tribal self-governance and self-determination authority across USDA.
 - Authority is not worth pursuing without full funding.



The feedback helped support the following marker bills that will be part of the discussion for the next Farm Bill

- S. 2457 would establish an office of self-governance at USDA.
- S. 2354– *Improving Agriculture, Research, Cultivation, Timber, and Indigenous Commodities (ARCTIC) Act* – requires the USDA Secretary to report to Congress on its plan to establish nooffice of Self-Goernance within one year. It also expands “638” authority to any function, service, or activity provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- S. 1780 – *Promoting Regulatory Independence, Mastery, and Expansion (PRIME) for Meat Processing Act* – expands “638” authority to Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS) to allow Tribal governments to inspect beef, bison, chicken, fish, seafood, and other products put into their food programs.
- S. 2709 – Strengthening the Office of Tribal Relations Act of 2023, H.R. 5493, and H.R. 5113, Rural and Tribal Economic Development Improvement Act of 2023, support “638”.
- S. 2912 – SNAP Tribal Food Sovereignty Act of 2023 – allows the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into self-determination contracts with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to carry out SNAP.



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