The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act: Where Are We Now?

BFROA is a "marker bill" intended for inclusion in the 2012 Farm Bill. This chart shows how well the House and Senate have done in including its components in their versions of the 2012 Farm Bill.

		How'd They Do?	
Issue	Our Ask	Senate	House
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	Add a priority for beginning farmer and farm transition research; make all AFRI grants competitive	E .	ŧ
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program - Funding	Increase funding from \$19 million to \$25 million annually	Image: A start of the s	Ð
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program - Policy	Add a new priority purpose on military veterans; include a 10% indirect cost option; retain current set-aside and match requirements	Ð	Ð
Conservation Loans	Increase guarantee level and create a target participation level for beginning farmers; include both direct and guaranteed loans; re-apply the family farm requirement		Ę
Crop Insurance Premium Support	Provide improved insurance rules and support for beginning farmers for full first 10 years in operation		E)
CRP Transition Incentives - <i>Funding</i>	Increase funding for land transfers to beginning farmers sufficient to last for the full farm bill cycle		A
CRP Transition Incentives - <i>Policy</i>	Strengthen conservation requirement; create a comprehensive conservation plan option; create a grasslands easement option; allow intra-family sales	Ĩ	Ð
Direct Farm Ownership and Operating Loans	Modify existing programs to better meet the needs of beginning farmers, including: Down Payment Loans levels; definition of beginning farmer; farming experience requirement; authorization levels; priority for participation loans		
EQIP Advanced Cost Share Payment	Increase the advance on cost share from 30% to 50% for beginning, socially disadvantaged, & limited resource farmers	Ð	
EQIP and CSP Targeted Funding	Increase the size of the beginning & socially disadvantaged funding pools for EQIP and for CSP	Ē	Ē
Farm Viability	Make farm viability a purpose of farmland protection easements; give priority to easements with an option to purchase at agricultural use value and to applicants with farm succession plans		Ē
Individual Development Account Program	Reauthorize & provide mandatory funding to jumpstart this innovative matched savings account program to help new farmers get started in agriculture		Ð
Microloan Program	Authorize a farm microloan program and a new intermediary lending pilot program for young and beginning farmers	Ĩ	
Rural Development Authority for New Entrepreneurial Farm Enterprises	Authorize USDA to use Rural Development grant and loan programs to foster new entrepreneurial opportunities for beginning farmers	Ē	ŧ

Value-Added Producer Grants - <i>Funding</i>	Provide \$30 million a year in farm bill funding	
Value-Added Producer Grants - <i>Policy</i>	Clarify the priority for beginning farmers within VAPG to improve implementation of the program	Ð
Veterans Agricultural Liaison	Create a new Veterans Agricultural Liaison position at USDA to connect returning military veterans with new farmer training programs & resources	