

# Farmers Are Climate Heroes



The Agriculture Resilience Act, a farmer-driven, science-based roadmap for reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in U.S. agriculture by the year 2040.

Unpredictable, extreme weather patterns are creating challenges that threaten food production and jeopardize farmers' livelihoods. The impact of supply chain problems during the international pandemic has shown the need for a dramatic change in our food and agriculture system that must be faced now and not put off until some distant tomorrow. As we move into the future, we need to harness the power of agriculture to draw down carbon from the atmosphere and store it in the soil. We can meet our climate goals and dramatically improve our food systems, all while engaging farmers in making the critical changes necessary for our future.



**Chellie Pingree** has been an organic farmer since the 1970's and represents Maine's First Congressional District. In Congress, she fights for healthy food from farm to fork through her position on the House Agriculture Committee and the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.



**The Agriculture Resilience Act** offers climate solutions that are farmer-driven in order to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in U.S. agriculture by 2040. In each one of the key focus areas, the ARA offers many innovative solutions to help meet farmers and resource providers where they are at—removing barriers and providing support for everyone to be a part of the solution.

### **Goals and Action Plan**

- Sets a national goal of achieving net-zero emissions in agriculture by 2040.

### **Research**

- Increases funding for USDA's Regional Climate Hubs.
- Invests in public breed and cultivar research.

### **Soil Health**

- Authorizes USDA to offer performance-based crop insurance discounts for practices that can be demonstrated to reduce risk.
- Creates new USDA grants to state and tribal governments to improve soil health.
- Directs USDA to establish a Soil Health and Greenhouse Gas Advisory Committee.

### **Farmland Preservation and Farm Viability**

- Creates a new Local Agriculture Marketing Program (LAMP) subprogram to help farmers develop and expand markets for farm products that improve soil health.
- Increases funding for the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program.

### **Pasture-based Livestock**

- Creates a new grant program to support small-scale meat and poultry processing infrastructure.
- Establishes a new Grasslands 30 Pilot Program through which grasslands at risk of conversion to cropping or development can receive annual payments.

### **On-farm Renewable Energy**

- Increases funding for USDA's Rural Energy for America Program.
- Directs USDA to research dual-use energy systems that integrate renewable energy production with crop or animal production.

### **Food Loss and Waste**

- Standardizes food date labeling to reduce consumer confusion.
- Creates a new USDA program to reduce food waste in schools.