

Understanding the Farm Bill

And why it's important to everyone



ROCK SOLID VALUE on a quality John Deere tractor.

STARTING AT **\$99**/Month*
TRACTOR ONLY

INDUSTRY-LEADING
6-YEAR
POWERTRAIN
WARRANTY*
ON ALL COMPACT UTILITY TRACTORS



Get the job done with rugged and ready John Deere E Series tractors with engines ranging from 22 hp to 135 hp. They're built tough to take on just about any task around your farm, ranch, jobsite or property. Expect comfort, convenience and John Deere reliability! And at only \$99 a month, it's as comfortable on your wallet as it is to operate.

GET YOUR QUOTE AT

LIMESTONEFLW.COM

1-877-542-5359

CAMPBELLVILLE ... 1505 New Columbia Rd. (270) 465-5439
LOUISVILLE ... 9812 Vista Hills Blvd. (502) 239-8484
FLORENCE ... 10011 Sam Neace Dr. (859) 538-1600
DEMOSVILLE ... 3375 Hwy 491 ... (859) 472-2246
ELIZABETHTOWN ... 801 New Glendale Rd. (270) 769-2341

SHELBYVILLE ... 102 Taylorsville Rd. (502) 633-1515
SOMERSET ... 5670 South Hwy 27 ... (606) 561-5326
DANVILLE ... 1401 Minor Road ... (859) 236-8500
SPRINGFIELD ... 2934 Highway 555 North ... (859) 336-7100

*Offer valid on new 1023E Compact Tractor purchases made between 3/1/2017 and 5/1/2017. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial. Up to a 20% down payment may be required. Example based on a purchase of \$10,405 with \$2,081 down payment, monthly payment of \$99 at 0% APR for 84 months. Taxes, freight, set up and delivery charges could increase the monthly payment. Price and model availability vary by dealer. Valid only at participating U.S. dealers. †Beginning 1/1/2016 all Compact Utility Tractors purchased new from an authorized John Deere Dealer come standard with a 6 year/2000 hour (whichever comes first) Powertrain Warranty. See the Limited Warranty for New John Deere Turf & Utility Equipment at dealer for details. *Manufacturer's estimate of power (ISO) per 97/68/EC.

LIM4X60401KFM-AC



As discussions about the 2018 Farm Bill begin around the country and on Capitol Hill, Title VII, specifically known as the Research, Extension, and Related Matters Title, will not likely get much attention outside of the agriculture arena.

But the money that has been put forth for research and extension endeavors has paid big dividends to the farm community as well as the general public.

Dean Nancy Cox of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment said there are many ways in which the research touches the consumer every day.

"This research affects what the consumer pays for food. It also affects whether their food is safe and people want to know their food is safe for their children," she said. "Research also helps to preserve wildlife, the environment and recreational uses of our lands."

As important as research is on so many fronts, funding has not always kept up with the need.

The House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research recently held a hearing about the importance of research in the agriculture industry. Agriculture Committee Chairman K. Michael Conaway from Texas said investments in agricultural research have led to extraordinary gains in productivity over the past century.

"While the United States has been, and should remain, the leader

in cutting-edge agricultural research, public funding for agricultural research has been on the decline," he added. "While the private-sector is offsetting part of those losses, private-sector research often depends on the fundamental research supported by public investment. If the U.S. is going to remain competitive going forward, we must continue making key investments in our agricultural research system and we must look for ways to do that in the most efficient manner possible."

Much of the research endeavors come by way of university programs. Tony Brannon, Dean of Murray State University's Hutson School of Agriculture said funding for these programs is indeed important to postsecondary programs.

"From a regional university standpoint, I feel like the research, particularly the university research that is sponsored through the federal Farm Bill, is imperative for modern day agriculture," he said. "It has allowed us to develop agriculture to the point that we are today."

Brannon emphasized that in creating enough food for a growing world population and remaining the safest food supply in the world, it is only with the help of research that makes those things possible.

"The research that comes with the Farm Bill is not just for provision, it's for protection. I think the general public would be amazed at the amount of research that is required before any chemical hits the market or before new any crop production is approved. It usually goes through years and years of development and research to make sure it's going to be productive but also safe."

Working together

Brannon noted that while much of the research at the university level is conducted through graduate studies, undergraduate research also holds much value for the students and ultimately the industry.

Many of the students at MSU enter into internships with various industry partners to gain valuable insight into careers. Brannon said that type of learning is often just as valuable as being in the lab or classroom. He also pointed out the value of collaboration between universities.

"We involve as many students as we can and while we are not totally based on research at MSU, we do a bit of practical research and we have been heavily involved with the University of Kentucky in their soybean and dark tobacco research programs which has been historic," he said.

Brannon also said that much of the research done at the college comes through partnerships with the industry itself helping provide a research laboratory of sorts for those industries and giving students a look at real-world work experiences.

While the funding aspect of research is important, partnerships, whether it is between schools or the industry itself, are also critical.

"One of the real pushes of the Farm Bill is how to take limited funding and make maximum use of it and that is done cooperatively," said Brannon.

Funding for research

While it would be hard to dispute the value research plays in the agriculture industry, funding has not always been

easy to come by and much of it comes by way of discretionary funding that has to be voted on each year by the Appropriations Committee. UK's Cox said if you look at some of the recent U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service reports, the progress in improving productivity is slowing down and federal funding for agriculture research has been flat for 20 years.

But the industry is getting a great return on investment. According to the USDA, "Studies have shown that every dollar invested in agricultural research now returns over \$20 to our economy."

The current federal budget proposal addresses funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), which was established by the 2008 Farm Bill and is the nation's premier competitive, peer-reviewed grants program for fundamental and applied agricultural sciences.

The 2017 Budget proposal calls for a total investment of \$700 million for AFRI, the fully authorized funding level established by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill.

BEING READY FOR
TOMORROW STARTS TODAY.

NEW HOLLAND AGRICULTURE | NEW HOLLAND CONSTRUCTION

READY 'N ROLLING!

SALES EVENT

0% FINANCING*, CASH BACK AND MORE!

Are you ready for the season ahead? Get Ready 'n Rolling today with the machines you need to handle all the chores on your to-do list. Take advantage of our great New Holland equipment offers, including **0% Financing***, **Cash Back and more!**

Stop by today or visit readyandrolling.newholland.com for more details. Don't wait! Offers ends June 30, 2017.

HOPKINSVILLE
H & R AGRI-POWER
800-844-3918
www.hragripower.com

MAYFIELD
H & R AGRI-POWER
800-455-4747
www.hragripower.com

RICHMOND
NORTHSIDE EQUIPMENT CO.
859-623-5167

RUSSELLVILLE
H & R AGRI-POWER
800-264-2474
www.hragripower.com

*For Commercial use only. Customer participation subject to credit qualification and approval by CNH Industrial Capital America LLC. See your participating New Holland dealer for details and eligibility requirements. Down payment may be required. Offers good through June 30, 2017 at participating New Holland dealers in the United States. Not all customers or applicants may qualify for this rate or term. CNH Industrial Capital America LLC standard terms and conditions apply. Taxes, freight, set-up, delivery, additional options or attachments not included in price. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. © 2017 CNH Industrial Capital America LLC. All rights reserved. New Holland Agriculture is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates. CNH Industrial Capital and New Holland Construction are trademarks in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates.