



Committee: Senate Agriculture Committee
Event: [Business Meeting: Agriculture Act of 2026](#)
Date: August 6, 2026

Executive Summary:

On August 6, 2026, the Senate Agriculture Committee held a business meeting to consider the Agriculture Act of 2026 ([S. ____](#)). Debate primarily centered on proposed cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and emergency disaster aid; the Committee also passed more than 30 bipartisan amendments en bloc, including provisions to add hot foods and seafood to SNAP-eligible purchases, transfer the Food for Peace program to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and address various regional priorities. Democrats were unified in opposing Republicans' proposed one-year delay of SNAP cost-sharing requirements, while GOP Senators/Republicans expressed frustration over the Committee's inability to advance a Farm Bill on a bipartisan basis, arguing that Democrats' defense of state errors in SNAP administration leaves farmers, ranchers, and rural communities without a path forward.

Republicans were unable to secure the votes necessary to report the bill out of Committee and voted to recess indefinitely. Both parties agreed to continue bipartisan negotiations and reaffirmed their shared interest in advancing a Farm Bill.

Member Toplines:

[Chair John Boozman \(R-AR\)](#): Boozman argued that the Farm Bill 2.0 represents a sincere commitment to farmers, ranchers, producers, and rural communities by providing tools and confidence for their work and the continuation of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)* in providing more farmland. He emphasized that there is no Republican support for a two-year delay for SNAP cost-sharing requirements and expressed frustration that Democrats allegedly would not negotiate the Farm Bill without the inclusion of a two-year delay. He additionally highlighted the inclusion of year-round E15 sales and over 100 bipartisan bills.

*Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)*¹: Klobuchar voiced her support for the addition of bipartisan amendments and maintained her opposition to a simple one-year delay for SNAP benefits cost-sharing. She emphasized that it is not just blue states that are impacted by SNAP cuts and asked for equal treatment for states that reduce their error rates, pointing to carve-outs for Alaska as examples of unfair treatment. She reiterated that due to tariffs and rising consumer costs, states and towns need additional time to address their error rates. She highlighted the many bipartisan provisions included, applauded the work done on the bill, and affirmed her desire to reach a bipartisan agreement once a deal is reached on SNAP cost-sharing delays and restoring other *OBBBA* cuts.

¹ Opening statements for Ranking Member Klobuchar were not available at the time of this memo's distribution.

Business Considered:

The Agriculture Act of 2026 (S.)

I. Relevant Member Toplines

- Sen. **Michael Bennet** (D-CO) spoke in favor of restoring disaster aid equally to states and for increasing wildfire resilience.
- Sen. **Raphael Warnock** (D-GA) argued that the Trump administration's tariff policies have devastated the nation's agricultural economy and increased prices. He highlighted that with the *OBBBA* cuts to SNAP, this crisis is further exacerbated.

II. Amendments

- The Committee adopted 35 amendments en bloc by voice vote, including updating nutrition details for SNAP, transferring the Food for Peace program to USDA, among others.
- Bennet 01 to Title 8: To invest \$4 billion in hazardous fuel mitigation and watershed restoration projects for wildfire prevention
 - Failed by a recorded vote of 11-12.
- Smith 01 to Title 9: To provide a one-time reinstatement of obligated Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) awards that USDA rescinded.
 - Sen. **Tina Smith** (D-MN) emphasized that REAP is bipartisan and boosts rural economic development while lowering energy costs. She highlighted the uncertainty and confusion caused by the freezing of REAP funds.
 - Failed by a recorded vote of 11-12.
- Smith 16 to Title 12: To simplify the year-round E15 provision and reduce the cost by roughly \$2 billion
 - Smith highlighted that year-round E15 sales will create more demand for American products and increase access to low-cost gasoline. Klobuchar emphasized that E15 sales are a national security issue and reiterated her support for an E15 provision to be included in the final bill.
 - Sen. **Deb Fischer** (R-NE) expressed concern for the currently included provision. She stressed that farmers deserve more than a messaging bill.
 - Chair Boozman moved to table the amendment, citing that it is outside of Committee jurisdiction (i.e., subject to Environment & Public Works' jurisdiction).
 - The amendment was tabled by a recorded vote of 11-12 along party lines.
- Thune 01 to Title 12: On origin labeling
 - Majority Leader **John Thune** (R-SD) highlighted the importance of applying labels to beef in increasing the demand for American-grown beef. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Farm Bill and labeling are compliant with the World Trade Organization, USDA, and the U.S. Trade Representative's Office.
 - Sens. **Cory Booker** (D-NJ), **John Hoeven** (R-ND), and **Adam Schiff** (D-CA) spoke in support of the bipartisan amendment and its ability to increase the market for American-grown beef.
 - The amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Final Vote

- Chair Boozman moved to recess indefinitely.
- **The Committee moved to recess by a vote of 12-11.**
 - Chair Boozman reiterated that the Committee would vote again upon returning from the August recess, and that negotiations would be ongoing throughout that period. He emphasized that the states and farmers will continue to lose out while opposing Senators continue to protect states with high error rates.
 - **Yeas:** McConnell (by proxy), Hoeven, Ernst, Hyde-Smith, Marshall, Tuberville (by proxy), Justice, Grassley, Thune, Fischer, Moran, Boozman.
 - **No:** Klobuchar, Hickenlooper, Smith, Durbin, Booker, Lujan, Warnock, Welch, Fetterman, Schiff, Slotkin (by proxy).