

Feed Emergency Enhancement During Disasters Act (FEEDD Act)

***Sponsored by: Sen. Hoeven (R-ND), Sen. Baldwin (D-WI),
Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) and Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)***

Background: Under the Federal Crop Insurance Program, producers that are unable to plant a crop due to adverse conditions are eligible to receive a small indemnity (55% of their guarantee) but are prohibited from growing a cash commodity due a missed window in the growing season. Producers can plant the ground to cover but there is a prohibition on haying and grazing before November 1st. Producers can elect to hay or graze the cover but must take another discount on their indemnity (35% of their guarantee) although the forage value is far less than a commodity crop. While administrative action provided ad-hoc relief in 2019 and 2020, Congress has a role in fixing this longstanding problem.

Legislation: The bipartisan, bicameral Feed Emergency Enhancement During Disasters Act (FEEDD Act) will give farmers and ranchers additional emergency flexibility to help alleviate feed concerns as well as promote conservation in years of excessive moisture, flooding and drought. The bill directs the Secretary to establish regional “harvest dates” for each crop year for predictable rules on prevent plant cover crop harvest annually.

The FEEDD Act would create an emergency waiver authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to allow for haying, grazing or chopping of a cover crop before November 1st in the event of a feed shortage due to excessive moisture, flood or drought without producers taking a further discount on their crop insurance. This legislation will:

- Provide emergency forage for personal use or donation for family farmers and ranchers when devastating weather hits.
- Increase the use of cover crops on prevent plant acres to prevent soil erosion and enhance soil health.
- Enhance the overall farm safety net for diversified crop and livestock producers.
- Maintain Crop Insurance Prevent Plant Program Integrity
- Have no impact on a producers Actual Production History (APH)

The FEEDD Act is supported by: *American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farmers Union, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Association of Conservation Districts, American Soybean Association, U.S. Durum Growers Association, American Sheep Industry Association, Edge Dairy Cooperative, Midwest Dairy Coalition, Farm Credit Council, American Bankers Association, Independent Community Bankers of America, U.S. Cattlemen’s Association, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, Crop Insurance Reimbursement Bureau, the Ag Retailers Association, The Nature Conservancy, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, and FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative.*

If you would like to become a cosponsor or have any questions, please contact:

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