

The Farmland Security Act of 2022

Senators Baldwin and Grassley are introducing the Farmland Security Act of 2022, which would amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) of 1978.

Since AFIDA was enacted, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has catalogued foreign ownership of over 37 million acres of American agricultural land.¹ Currently, neither Congress nor the public have access to the disaggregated foreign ownership data.

Foreign ownership of American agricultural land presents potential security risks to our supply chains.² For example, in 2020, exports of U.S. chicken products from Brazilian-owned Pilgrim's Pride Corp jumped 24 percent, disrupting our domestic food supply during a global pandemic.³

Foreign ownership of agricultural land may also negatively impact small family farm operations and rural communities. Currently, almost half of our agricultural land is owned by Americans 65 years or older and the National Young Farmers Coalition reports that nearly 100 million of these acres are expected to change ownership in the next 10 years.⁴ This transition may provide ample opportunities for more foreign entities to invest in American agricultural land.

To assess the risks posed by the growing foreign ownership in the U.S. agricultural sector, the Farmland Security Act would amend 7 U.S.C 3505 by:

1. Requiring the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to publish all prior year disclosures of foreign investments in American agricultural land on an interactive and public USDA database that is updated in real time; and
2. Requiring the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to report to Congress on foreign investments in American agricultural land, including the impact foreign ownership has on family farms, rural communities, and the domestic food supply.

For any questions regarding the Farmland Security Act, please e-mail Sydney_Scott@baldwin.senate.gov of Senator Baldwin's staff or Joseph_Gilson@grassley.senate.gov of Senator Grassley's staff.

¹ https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/EPAS/PDF/2020_afida_annual_report.pdf

² <https://www.csis.org/analysis/foreign-purchases-us-agricultural-land-facts-figures-and-assessment-real-threats>

³ <https://graphics.reuters.com/HEALTH-CORONAVIRUS/USA-MEATPACKING/qmypoymnxxbvr/index.html>

⁴ https://www.youngfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/NYFC-Report-2017_LoRes_Revised.pdf