

Report Card

Name: Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018

Topic: Food Access, Nutrition, and Public Health

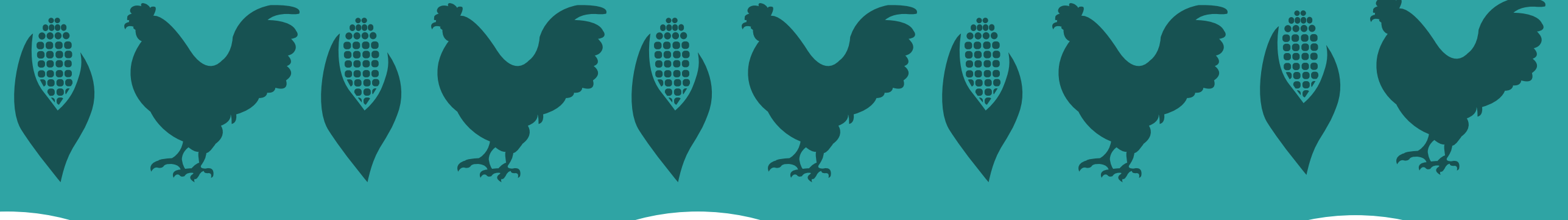
Graded by: Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM)

About the Bill



In the United States, the farm bill is the primary agricultural and food policy tool of the federal government. The comprehensive omnibus bill is renewed every 5 years or so and deals with both agriculture and all other affairs under the purview of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Current Law



Funding

Price Loss Coverage

Restrictions

Insurance Subsidies

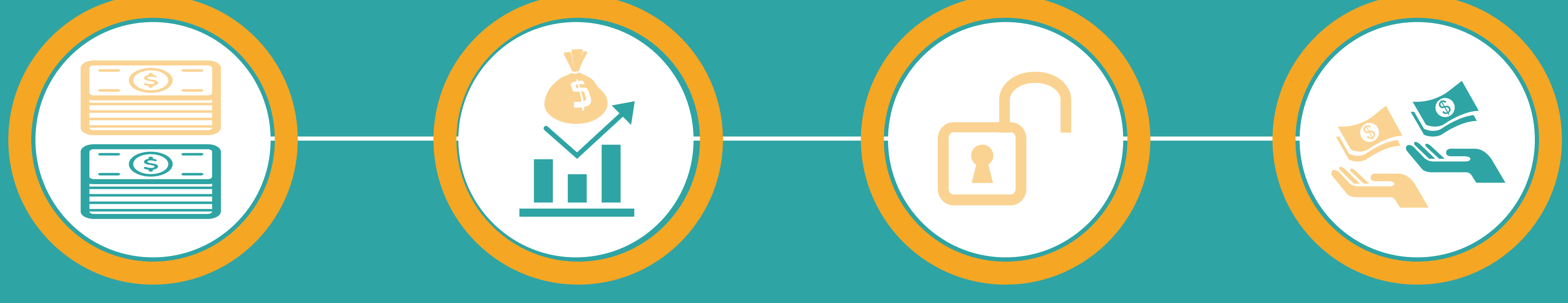
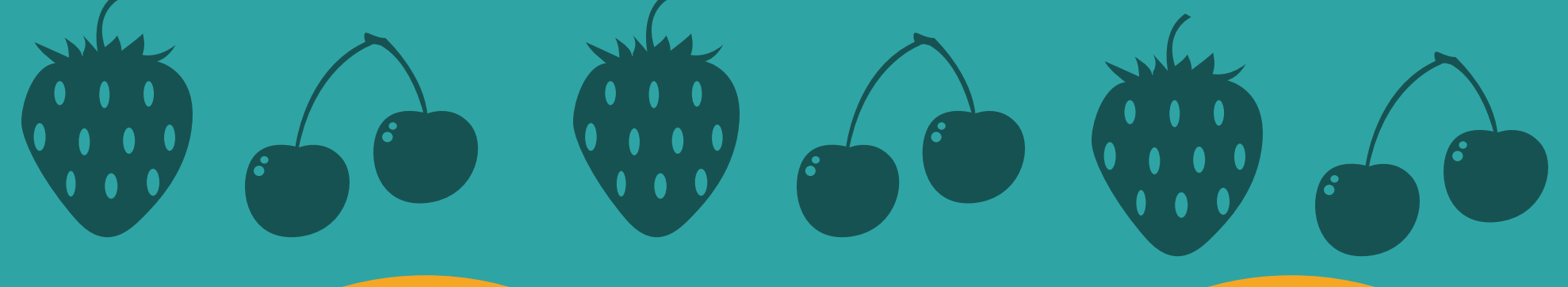
Subsidies and planting restrictions do not support increased production of specialty crops like fruits and vegetables.

Only certain commodities are covered. Specialty crops, including fruits and vegetables, are excluded.

Fruit and vegetable planting is restricted on base acres in crop commodity programs.

Insurance subsidies for fruit and vegetable producers have limited availability.

What SBM Recommends



Allocated Funds

Expanded Price Loss Coverage

Removed Restrictions

More Insurance Subsidies

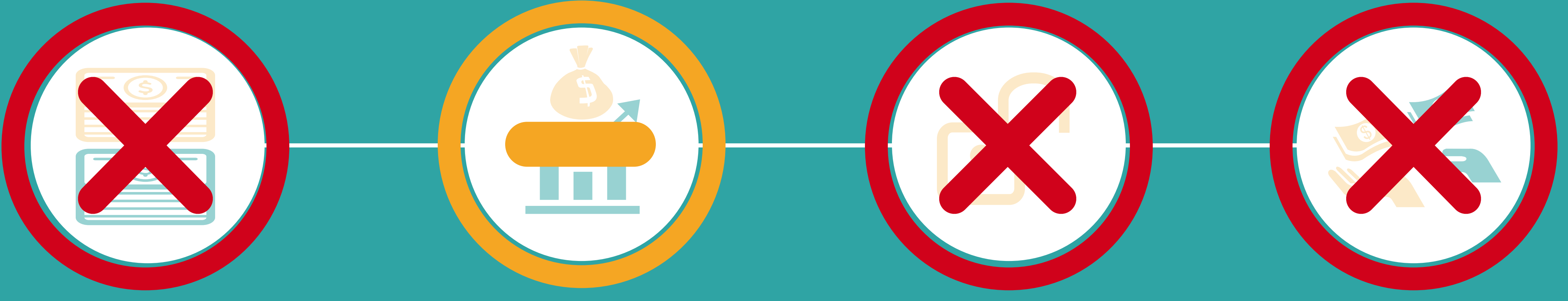
Allocate funds for increased fruit and vegetable production.

Include fruits and vegetables in commodity programs for price loss coverage and agriculture risk coverage.

Remove fruit and vegetable planting restrictions on base acres in crop commodity programs.

Provide additional insurance subsidies for producing fruits and vegetables.

What the Senate Farm Bill Proposes



Funding

Price Loss Coverage

Restrictions

Insurance Subsidies

This issue is not addressed.

Specialty crops, including fruits and vegetables, are still excluded from some programs, while other programs are improved.

This issue is not addressed.

This issue is not addressed.

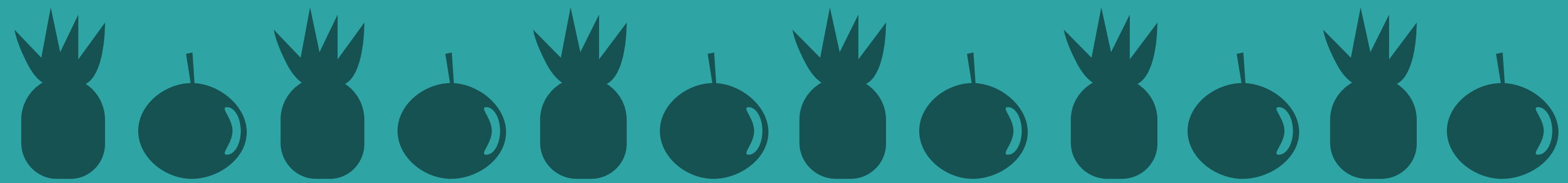
Other Existing Fruit and Vegetable Initiatives



SBM recommends maintaining or increasing funding for the following initiatives.

	Purpose	2018 Farm Bill	
Specialty Crop Research Initiative	Supports critical research and extension projects that provide resources to address the needs of specialty crop industries in food and agriculture.	Authorizes \$80 million per year for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.	
Specialty Crop Block Grant	Enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets.	Authorizes \$85 million per year for the Special Crop Block Grant.	
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	Provides fruit and vegetable snacks to school children throughout the day.	Maintains the current law.	
Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program	Extends and amends the hunger-free community grants to "incentive grants" for projects that incentivize SNAP participants to buy fruits and vegetables.	Reauthorizes and provides \$50 million for FY19 and each fiscal year thereafter.	
Farmers Market Promotion Program	Awards states grants in order to provide vouchers to low-income seniors so that they can purchase foods (fruits, vegetables, honey, and fresh cut herbs) at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSAs.	Extends funding through 2023.	

The Grade



Funding

Price Loss Coverage

Restrictions

Insurance Subsidies

Other Initiatives



Conclusion



Although many of the initiatives that promoted increased fruit and vegetable intake were reauthorized and new pilots were introduced, the bill fails to address too many key issues related to fruit and vegetable production.