

## AFD 233 Farm Bill, SNAP, Public Libraries

- Macon Georgia closing its libraries

- <https://www.macon.com/news/local/article214363464.html>

On Tuesday, the County Commission [voted to restore \\$16 million](#) to various Macon-Bibb departments and outside agencies, meaning an additional 4.1 mills in property taxes would be needed to cover the costs. That leaves commissioners with about five weeks before they have to set the new property tax rate on a now \$165 million budget.

But will enough votes be cast by commissioners for that much of an increase?

The 4.1-mills would cost about \$135 more in taxes this year for a property valued at \$100,000.

[The \\$16 million will be used](#) to keep the the county's recreation and parks departments and golf course from shutting down, as well as the transit system and libraries from closing. Among the agencies also receiving some of that funding were several local museums and entities such as Meals on Wheels and the county's health department.

- <https://www.macon.com/news/local/article214076959.html>

- The Farm Bill and SNAP

- <http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-trump-farm-subsidies-201800606-story.html#>

- <https://civileats.com/2018/06/13/for-farmers-on-snap-house-farm-bill-cuts-would-hurt-in-more-ways-than-one/>

While there are no current statistics on how many farmers receive SNAP benefits, the rate of [rural residents receiving food assistance](#) rose from 12.5 percent to 16 percent from 2010 to 2015, exceeding the national average [of 12.7 percent](#). Making a living exclusively from farming has proven difficult, if not impossible, for more than half of the farmers in the United States: According to the USDA, [61 percent of principal farm operators](#) work off the farm at least part-time.

And farmers like the Callahans benefit from SNAP in more than one way: the recent rise in [programs that match SNAP dollars](#) at farmers' markets in nearly every state has also brought in much-needed income for small and medium-scale farmers.

As a farmer, Lovelace knows that every piece of food she grows is a dollar sign, and she works hard to maximize her profits, canning, pickling, and preserving food to sell in the off-season, since the Colorado growing season is so short. She says that during the growing season, putting in extra hours on doing job training to earn her SNAP benefits would be next to impossible.

Her local workforce center serves five counties and is currently closed because of a staffing shortage. Even online training would be difficult, since she is a single parent with limited time and access to broadband.

- <https://www.iatp.org/documents/houses-draft-2018-farm-bill-fails-farmers-and-everyone-else>

- Perhaps the most notable program elimination is that of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which currently offers support to farmers undertaking conservation activities on over 70 million acres of land across the country. Without CSP, farmers would have no assistance to implement whole-farm conservation plans, which would result in less resilient farms and increased pollution. The money from CSP wouldn't be funneled into other conservation programs, either; the draft Farm Bill proposes to cut funding for all working lands conservation programs by \$7.1 billion (20 percent) over 10 years. To make things worse, CAFOs would be eligible to receive more conservation dollars than they have in the past. This would make funding even more scarce for farmers wanting to implement meaningful conservation plans on their land.
- [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/congresss-latest-farm-bill-sets-a-new-standard-of-ugliness/2018/07/04/75aed658-7ee4-11e8-bb6b-c1cb691f1402\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.d52670621352](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/congresss-latest-farm-bill-sets-a-new-standard-of-ugliness/2018/07/04/75aed658-7ee4-11e8-bb6b-c1cb691f1402_story.html?utm_term=.d52670621352)
- <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/06/28/senate-passes-farm-bill-683232>
  - “Rubio wanted to codify an executive order that prohibits taxpayer dollars from being used on programs that benefit businesses owned by the Cuban military. In the end, Heitkamp changed her amendment Thursday to give the Agriculture Department discretion to implement funding in line with the Trump administration’s stance on Cuba.”
- <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/house-farm-bills-snap-cuts-work-requirements-would-hurt-people-with>
- <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-agriculture/2018/06/29/farm-bill-ready-for-conference-committee-267533>
  - Senate bill passage margin sets them up for superior position in negotiations; SNAP work benefit (probably) DOA