

MODERN AGRICULTURAL CROP PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

- It is critical for the federal government to make decisions based on sound science, peer-reviewed data, and by following a risk-based approach.
- Farmers need to have access to critical crop input supplies (pesticides, fertilizers, biostimulants, seed) and precision agricultural technologies.

ARA'S POSITION

- Protect farmers' essential tools (seed, pesticide, fertilizer, biostimulants, precision ag technology).
- Support codifying oversight of pesticide registrations and regulations at the EPA and state agencies.
- Government decisions need to be based on sound science and risk-based, peer-reviewed data.
- Invest in research and development to enhance crop yields and improve plant health.



Richard Gupton

Senior VP, Public Policy & Counsel
richard@aradc.org | 202-595-1699

Hunter Carpenter

Senior Director, Public Policy
hunter@aradc.org | 202-595-1705

4201 Wilson Blvd. Suite 700 | Arlington, VA 22203
www.aradc.org



2026 ARA POLICY PRIORITIES

FARM BILL 2.0

- Agricultural retailers and distributors play a vital role in the success of the nation's food security.
- These businesses are responsible for getting the right crop inputs to their farmer customers at the right time, which can be difficult in the short timeframe farmers have to plant.
- Retailers also provide their farmer customers with crop consulting services and custom pesticide and fertilizer application services.
- It is vital that science-based regulations and the oversight of pesticides are based on the scientific expertise of career regulators at the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and State lead agencies.
- Requiring National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide General Permits (PGP) for pesticide applications already approved under FIFRA is unnecessary, costly, and provides no additional environmental protection.

ARA'S POSITION

- Support legislation to streamline technical service provider (TSP) certification (Increased TSP Access Act of 2025 - HR 575 / S 156).
- Support legislation to define and standardize rules for plant biostimulants (Plant Biostimulant Act of 2025 - HR 3783 / S 1907).
- Support legislation to remove NPDES PGP requirements (Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act - HR 3824).
- Support legislation that ensures EPA OPP and State Lead Agencies have exclusive pesticide regulatory authority, bipartisan language included in the 2018 House Farm Bill.
- Support legislation to ensure uniformity of labeling standards for pesticides that are backed by sound science and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Work with the USDA-Risk Management Agency (RMA) to modify prevented planting dates to lessen potential impacts on the ag retail sector.
- Increase FSA loan limits and modernize credit programs (PACE Act - HR 1991 / S 899) so growers can better finance land, inputs, and operations — directly improving retailers' ability to extend trade credit and manage risk.
- Expand access to rural capital and financing tools to strengthen cash flow across the ag supply chain, ensuring retailers and growers can invest, operate, and grow with confidence.



PRO-GROWTH ECONOMIC POLICIES – ENERGY, LABOR, & TRADE

- Work with industry coalitions to continue to promote the development and use of all liquid fuels (oil, gas, biofuels, etc.) to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign sources of energy and related technologies.
- Support continued investment in biofuel research and the development of low-carbon emission technologies.
- There is a growing need for more specialized workers in agribusinesses and rural communities.
- Support policies that promote free trade of agricultural products, equipment, and crop input materials (pesticides, fertilizers, seeds) that create opportunities for the benefit of American agribusinesses and farmers.
- Support federal tax policies that promote economic growth and the repeal of tax provisions that impose undue burdens.

ARA'S POSITION

- Support federal energy policies to increase domestic natural gas production, the reduction of U.S. manufacturing costs for crop input materials and promote the development and use of renewable fuels.
- Support Year-Round E15 (Nationwide Consumer & Fuel Retailer Choice Act of 2025 – HR 1346 / S 593).
- Oppose any proposed cuts to the Renewable Fuel Standards, which would have a devastating impact on agriculture, rural economies, and will stifle investment in ethanol plants throughout the nation.
- Reform H-2A program to expand eligible job categories, streamline the application process, enable year-round employment, increase worker portability, modernize wage requirements, improve recruitment options, and increase program flexibility during emergencies.
- Support the full 16-year renewal of the United States-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade pact ahead of its 2026 review.

TRANSPORTATION & SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES

- Supply chain disruptions cause major challenges for the nation's agricultural industry.
- Freight rail is a vital link that connects thousands of U.S. manufacturers, farmers, and energy producers with consumers.
- Investment in the nation's roads, bridges, and waterways is critical to America's agricultural economy and global competitiveness.

ARA'S POSITION

- Support a five-year reauthorization of Surface Transportation highway and bridges programs.
- Support making the Safe Driver Apprenticeship Program permanent and expanding it to include all 18- to 20-year old commercial drivers, creating more opportunities for young people to enter the trucking profession while maintaining high safety standards.
- Support legislation that would allow for a 10 percent axle variance for dry bulk without increasing overall federal gross vehicle weight (GVW) limit.
- Support an Hours of Service (HOS) legislation to eliminate the "planting and harvesting" seasonal provisions and authorize a pilot program for transporters of farm supplies to operate up to a 200-air-mile radius.
- Support legislation to modernize and simplify regulations for farm-related industries by authorizing online renewal of seasonal ag CDLs and codifying implements of husbandry definition (Seasonal Ag CDL Modernization Act – HR 4601 / S2909).
- Support the biennial passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), urging Congress to pass the 2026 version to fund critical infrastructure improvements for ports, locks, and dams. ARA emphasizes that these investments improve the efficiency of the agricultural supply chain, keeping rural communities globally competitive.
- Support reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) that includes provisions that enhance shippers' rights and promote increased railroad competition.