

116th Congress: HAC Oversight/Potential Hearings

Subcommittee Chairs will be empowered to do a lot of the work at their level as opposed to the top down style of the Committee in the 115th Congress.

Much of the work in 2019 will focus on oversight of implementation of the 2018 farm bill.

Other focuses will be on the condition of the farm economy and the impacts of trade negotiations and tariffs on rural America.

Full Committee:

- State of farm economy with Secretary Perdue
- Trade hearing with USDA and USTR
- Implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard & impact on rural economy
- Broadband delivery in rural America (potential joint with E&C)
- Potential for mission area hearings with Under Secretaries and agency heads

General Farm Commodities & Risk Management:

- Farm bill implementation
- Review of Trump Administration's trade remedy program
- Interaction between conservation practices & crop insurance (with CF Subcommittee)
- Realignment of the FPAC mission area & integration of agency information, programs & staff (including field level staffing)
- Status of crop insurance and disaster programs
- Data gathering and analysis/use of data in farm programs (with BHR Subcommittee)

Commodity Exchanges, Rural Development & Credit:

- Farm bill implementation
- CFTC reauthorization (lapsed in 2013)
- Review of credit conditions and availability in rural America
- Broadband (see above)
- Access to USDA-Rural Development programs and technical assistance for small communities

Conservation, Energy and Forestry:

- Farm bill implementation
- Effectiveness of working lands conservation programs to help address changing climate conditions
- Effectiveness of wetland easements & USDA maintenance
- Review of farm bill energy programs
- Evaluation of current Forest Service management tools & workforce challenges

Nutrition, Oversight & Department Operations:

- Farm bill implementation
- Review of SNAP E&T pilots
- Review of Trump Administration's rulemaking on SNAP waivers
- Review of Trump Administration remakes of USDA organizational structure
- Review of the status of USDA Civil Rights situation for customers & employees
- Review of the statutes of USDA outreach & intergovernmental efforts

Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research:

- Farm bill implementation
- Review of commodity check-off programs
- Status of NIFA/ERS move & realignment
- Biodefense preparedness (with LFA Subcommittee)
- FSMA implementation
- Review of National Ag Statistics Service data gathering and effectiveness

Livestock and Foreign Agriculture:

- Farm bill implementation
- Review of food aid response to humanitarian crises overseas
- Review of trade promotion activities & Trump Administration trade remedy package
- Review of animal health issues