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## **Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance Endorses Disaster Relief, Mechanization Bills**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 15, 2023)** – The **Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance (SCFBA)**, a national coalition of more than 200 specialty crop organizations representing growers of fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, nursery plants and other products, this week endorsed the following legislation that will be considered during the 2023 Farm Bill discussions:

- [\*\*Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act\*\*](#), introduced by U.S. Representatives Jimmy Panetta (CA-19) and Kat Cammack (FL-03) and sponsored by U.S. Representatives Austin Scott (GA-08), Zoe Lofgren (CA-18), John Duarte (CA-13), Nick Langworthy (NY-23), and Chuck Edwards (NC-11).
- [\*\*Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research and Development Program\*\*](#), sponsored by U.S. Representatives Doug LaMalfa (CA-1), Salud Carbajal (CA-24), Max Miller (OH-7) and Abigail Spanberger (VA-7).

The SCFBA was established to advocate for broad-based Farm Bill policy initiatives to address the unique needs of a diverse sector of the agricultural economy, known as specialty crops, and to aid their overall competitiveness in the face of increasing imports and rising global pressures on American exports. It is led by Co-Chairs **Mike Joyner, President of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association; Dave Puglia, President and CEO of Western Growers; and Kam Quarles, CEO of the National Potato Council**, along with **Robert Guenther, Chief Public Policy Officer for International Fresh Produce Association**, who serves as secretariat for the Alliance.

“The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance appreciates the work by members of the U.S. House of Representatives for supporting and prioritizing specialty crops as discussions continue surrounding the 2023 Farm Bill,” the SCFBA co-chairs said in a joint statement. “Both of these bills align with the Alliance’s recommendations released earlier this year and support a stronger future for the industry, helping to ensure its competitiveness in the domestic and global marketplace.”

Specialty crop production, including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery and greenhouse commodities, contributes significantly to the U.S economy, [accounting for \\$64.7 billion in farm gate value and 30 percent of farm cash receipts for crops.](#)

# SCFBA #

*The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance is a national coalition of more than 200 organizations representing growers of fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, nursery plants and other products. The Alliance was established to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop agriculture and improve the health of Americans by broadening the scope of U.S. agricultural public policy. For more information, visit [farmbillalliance.com](http://farmbillalliance.com).*