

Five Facts About Kevin Cramer and the Farm Bill

Today marks the first meeting of the Farm Bill Conference Committee – and while Kevin Cramer tries to rewrite his record of toxicity toward the Farm Bill and the assistance it provides North Dakota’s farmers, here are five facts you need to know.

1. Cramer has never served on the House Committee on Agriculture and has been oblivious to the ins and outs of the Farm Bill and its importance to North Dakota’s farmers.

Cramer’s appointment to the Conference Committee is an “[election year bailout](#)” from his political bosses Mitch McConnell and Paul Ryan who want to give Cramer something to campaign on.

[NDxPlains](#): “Speaker Paul Ryan was handing out conference committee appointments like they were candy at an election year parade. 47 members this year compared to 29 members in the 2014 conference committee. It would be more prudent to narrow the appointments to those who are actually effective on agricultural policy. But, it is an election year and that leads to political opportunism.”

Cramer didn’t even know when the Farm Bill passed out of committee earlier this year. [\[VIDEO\]](#)

2. Cramer is a member of the extreme anti-ag Republican Study Committee.

The group pushed for eliminating the Renewable Fuel Standard, eliminating the sugar program, and for devastating cuts to crop insurance and nutrition programs, all of which help North Dakota farmers and ranchers. Either Cramer endorsed those ideas or failed to convince other members of the group that these positions are harmful to our state.

3. Cramer took credit for the work of others on the Farm Bill.

Cramer took credit for introducing a fix to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) commodity support program included in the Farm Bill. But Senator Heitkamp was the one who introduced and pushed for a fix to ARC issues and the farm safety net program.

- [AgWeek HEADLINE](#): “Heitkamp Bill Would Fine Tune Farm Safety Net Program”
- [Fence Post HEADLINE](#): “Heitkamp, Ernst Introduce Bill To Fix Farm Safety Net”

4. Cramer supported poison pills in the House version of the Farm Bill that could have doomed its passage.

This year, Cramer enthusiastically voted for the initial House Farm Bill which enjoyed [zero bipartisan support](#) because of its huge cuts to SNAP, threatening food support for millions of Americans. In 2011, these same programs [lifted 4.7 million Americans out of poverty](#).

5. Cramer has a history of playing politics with the Farm Bill.

Cramer has flipped positions on the Farm Bill and its components whenever it's politically convenient. Now that it's an election year, he's desperately trying to convince North Dakotans that he cares about the programs in the Farm Bill.

- Cramer was critical of the 1996 Farm Bill during his unsuccessful run for Congress, but defended the Farm Bill during his second attempt for a congressional seat, just two years later. In that same unsuccessful bid, Cramer promised to restore millions of acres to the Conservation Reserve Program. By the time he was running in 2010, Cramer had reversed his position.

In 2014, Cramer was criticized for holding up Farm Bill passage over his politics.

- Cramer blamed everyone but himself for the initial failure of the 2013 farm bill, taking aim at both Democrats and Republicans before later [complaining at a closed-door GOP meeting](#) that failure to pass the legislation would end his congressional career.
- The [Williston Herald](#) called on Cramer to “take a lesson from Hoeven and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp” and round up Republican support for the Farm Bill, saying it was “a chance to redeem knocks on his leadership.”
- The [Grand Forks Herald](#) Editorial Board slammed Cramer and House Republicans for carving food stamps out of the Farm Bill, saying the move was a “sign of ideologues who value purity above results.”