America's Sweetest Industry

America's Sugar Industry Is Backed By Congress Through Policy Codified in the Farm Bill

- The policy is **designed to operate at zero cost to the taxpayer** and to keep sugar affordable for consumers.
- Sugar, as an essential ingredient in our nation's food supply, **must have a strong policy that reinforces the sugar supply chain** and ensures that Americans are not solely dependent on unstable foreign supplies.
- U.S. sugar policy helps **level the playing field** for America's farmers against heavily subsidized sugar production around the world.

Cornelius Fowler,
IAM Florida Sugar
Workers Union

> *If there's no sugar policy, we have no future, no job, no home.*

Why Sugar Policy Works

Loans, not payments:

The Farm Bill authorizes the USDA to offer loans to America's sugar producers. These loans, which enable producers to store inventory until it is needed, are repaid with interest.

Accounts for imports:

Existing trade commitments guarantee preferential market access to nearly 40 countries, making America the 3rd largest sugar importer in the world. Market access can increase to meet market needs.

Reinforces U.S. supply chain:

Domestic production plus foreign imports ensure American consumers and food manufacturers always have sugar ready for just-in-time delivery. In the early days of the pandemic, the industry shifted from bulk and large packages to smaller four-pound bags. We put an additional 50 million four-pound bags on grocery store shelves.

Without Sugar Policy

- Domestic sugar production and food security would be in jeopardy.
- Family farms would be driven out of business and countless jobs in urban and rural communities would be eliminated.

Next Farm Bill Should Make Sugar Safety Net Stronger

- Across the nation, commodity groups are seeking a stronger safety net due to significant increases in the costs of production.
- Sugarbeet and sugarcane farms are facing the same economic pressures.
- To sustain current production levels and acquire credit for farm and factory operations, sugar producers are advocating that loan rates be raised to align with the economic environment and significant cost increases.
- We urge Congress to pass a five-year Farm Bill that delivers a strengthened safety net for sugar producers and workers, allowing us to keep it sweet in America.

Congress consistently rejects attempts to weaken the U.S. sugar policy.
Over the past two Farm Bills, Congress has rejected six separate attempts to harm sugar policy.

U.S. Sugar Policy Defends Against Foreign Subsidized Sugar

Sugar is the **world's most distorted commodity** market due to market manipulation from foreign governments. That is why Congress does not allow heavily subsidized imported sugar to be dumped on our market.

Despite being **among the most sustainable sugar producers in the world and meeting high labor and environmental standards**, America's sugar producers cannot compete against billions of dollars in foreign government subsidies.

America's sugar producers advocate for a **"zero-for-zero"** approach to global sugar trade: when foreign countries eliminate their market-distorting subsidies, the U.S. can compete on a more level playing field without existing sugar policy.

Ardis Hammock,
3rd Generation Sugarcane Grower in Florida

I need a strong Farm Bill that stops foreign governments from dumping heavily subsidized sugar into the U.S. and undercutting hardworking American farmers. All Americans are in the same boat of needing a secure, affordable food supply. Dependence on foreign supply chains puts that at risk.

U.S. Sugar Policy Keeps Food Manufacturers Supplied

Advocates for weakening agriculture policy – sugar policy included – argue that the cost to consumers is too high, though **Americans spend less of their household income on food than any other consumer in the world.**

Peer-reviewed academic research published in 2020, 2022, and 2023 definitively concluded:

- U.S. sugar policy does not harm the financial performance of corporate manufacturers of candy and other sugar-containing goods.
- U.S. sugar-using companies do not pass on lower prices to consumers when sugar prices decrease.

U.S. sugar policy ensures an abundance of sugar. Year in and year out, there are over 3 billion pounds of surplus sugar available. Last year, in 2023/24, we were proud to have record levels of sugar production in America.

Top Global Sugar Subsidizers

Brazil: $2.5 B/yr

Thailand: $1.3 B/yr

India: $17.6 B/yr

More than 100 countries produce sugar. Many foreign producers are inefficient, rely on government subsidies, and operate under low labor and environmental standards. Countries typically satisfy domestic needs first, then dispose of surplus sugar on the world market. That sugar is sold at whatever price it will bring, often below its cost of production. This is called dumping, and it is illegal in the U.S.

In a single chocolate bar, sugar accounts for only pennies of the cost.

Most Americans have no idea how much they pay for sugar because it is so affordable.

Yet, **every one cent per pound decrease in the price of sugar costs farmers $90 per acre.**

America's sugar producers appreciate Congress' ongoing support for a strengthened sugar policy that allows us to invest in our farms, factories, and communities.