



## Ohio Soybean Association Policy Update June 2025

### National Policy Updates

**Federal Budget-** Senate deficit hawks are unhappy with the projected increase in deficits that would be created by the House-passed budget reconciliation bill, while more moderate GOP senators are concerned about cuts the House bill would make to Medicaid, SNAP and clean energy tax breaks. Admist these disagreements, the stakes for agriculture in the reconciliation package are significant. The House-passed bill extends and expands the 199A small business tax credit, and the estate tax exemption and the 45z biofuel production tax credit. It also increases reference prices for commodity programs as well as enhances crop insurance and foreign market promotion programs. The path for Senate passage is uncertain, but OSA continues to advocate for the house-passed agriculture improvements.

Table 1. Proposed Revisions to Statutory Reference Prices in House Agriculture Reconciliation Bill									
	Existing Statutory Ref. Price	Proposed Statutory Ref. Price (2025-2031)	Immediate Increase Proposed	Additional Annual Increase (1.005) beginning 2031					
				2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	Increase Proposed by 2035
Wheat	\$5.50	\$6.35	15.45%	\$6.38	\$6.41	\$6.45	\$6.48	\$6.51	18.37%
Corn	\$3.70	\$4.10	10.81%	\$4.12	\$4.14	\$4.16	\$4.18	\$4.20	13.61%
Sorghum	\$3.95	\$4.40	11.39%	\$4.42	\$4.44	\$4.47	\$4.49	\$4.51	14.21%
Barley	\$4.95	\$5.45	10.10%	\$5.48	\$5.50	\$5.53	\$5.56	\$5.59	12.88%
Oats	\$2.40	\$2.65	10.42%	\$2.66	\$2.68	\$2.69	\$2.70	\$2.72	13.20%
LG Rice	\$14.00	\$16.90	20.71%	\$16.98	\$17.07	\$17.15	\$17.24	\$17.33	23.76%
MG rice	\$14.00	\$16.90	20.71%	\$16.98	\$17.07	\$17.15	\$17.24	\$17.33	23.76%
Soybeans	\$8.40	\$10.00	19.05%	\$10.05	\$10.10	\$10.15	\$10.20	\$10.25	22.05%
Peanuts	\$535.00	\$630.00	17.76%	\$633.15	\$636.32	\$639.50	\$642.69	\$645.91	20.73%
Seed cotton	\$0.367	\$0.42	14.44%	\$0.42	\$0.42	\$0.43	\$0.43	\$0.43	17.33%

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**Trade** – A series of court cases have left questions about President Trump’s tariff strategy. The Court of International Trade (CIT) issued a ruling that President Trump acted outside his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose sweeping tariffs on all U.S. trading partners. However, the decision was almost immediately stayed by the U.S. Court of Appeals, allowing Trump’s tariffs to continue while the appeal is considered. Separately, a Washington D.C. circuit court also ruled the president does not have the unilateral power to issue broad-based tariffs. The Trump Administration has filed an appeal to that ruling as well.

**MAHA Commission Report** – The Make American Healthy Again Commission issued its first report in May. Overall, the report is critical of the food supply, particularly ultra-processed foods (UPFs). The report raising questions about the use of seed oils in the food supply and their contribution to declining health. While the report



acknowledges the importance of US agriculture, it is critical of the use of synthetic chemicals in agriculture, and specifically mentions glyphosate, atrazine and chlorpyrifos. The report indicates a need for continued studies to better understand the cumulative load of multiple exposures of these chemicals. OSA sent a letter to the Ohio congressional delegation to point to the multitude of information on the health benefits of soy in diets and information and regulatory regimes that have concluded pesticides are not a threat to human health in the food supply.

**USDA Appointments** – Recently, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announced the latest slate of presidential appointments for key positions at USDA. Included in these appointments state directors for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD) in Ohio. OSA congratulates Don Jones and Charles Tassell on their appointments.



Donald “Don” Jones will serve as State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in Ohio. Don was most recently in his fourth term in the Ohio House of Representatives, where he chaired the Agriculture Committee and served on the Natural Resource, Finance and Education committees. Don and his wife Amy, run a 30 head commercial cow/calf operation and markets hay. Mr. Jones has been a strong champion for agriculture throughout his career.



Charles Tassell will serve as the State Director for Rural Development in Ohio. Mr. Tassell has worked on housing and development policy for over 30 years, most recently as the COO for the National Real Estate Investors Association. He has served as an elected Council Member in Deer Park, Ohio for 8 years, is an author, and an Advisor and Professor for the international university: Lisbon Business and Government School.

### **State Policy Updates**

#### **Legislation Tracking –**

- **Carbon Capture (H.B. 170)** – Since our last update, this piece of legislation has received two additional committee hearings. Some groups providing proponent testimony consisted of API Ohio, Ohio Oil & Gas Association, Batelle, Growth Energy, American Carbon Alliance, and POET LLC. Those offering opponent testimony consisted of many environmental groups and individual stakeholders. Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and The Nature Conservancy provided interested party testimony with OFBF calling on the committee to



amend the bill to include language that requires proper surface use agreements to be in place to protect the private property rights of affected landowners. They asked the committee to raise the minimum percentage for statutory consolidation (forced pooling) from 70% to 75%. They also requested that all projects be subject to similar field drainage system repair and remediation requirements as required by OPSB rules at Ohio Admin. Code 4806-4-08(E) which requires developers map field drainage systems, determine ways to mitigate or avoid damage to drainage systems, and promptly repair or restore drainage conditions.

- **MAHA Related State Legislation** – With the MAHA commission report recently released on the federal level, OSA is keeping a close eye on all state level legislation that may be influenced by this report.
  - *H.B. 272* – This piece of legislation sponsored by Reps. Justin Pizzulli and Monica Robb Blasdel would prohibit the use of certain food dyes and additives and the release of substances into the atmosphere for certain purposes. It would also prohibit the sale and manufacturing of various products with intentionally added PFAS in state and revise the law governing fluoride. OSA will continue to track this legislation as it does contain some language surrounding pesticide regulation in the state.
  - *H.R. 14* – This non-binding resolution urges Congress to ensure toxins and chemicals are removed from food. During sponsor testimony of this legislation, the Co-Sponsor, Rep. Gross, implied pesticide residue on food is a leading reason for poor health outcomes. There has been no further movement on this resolution since our last update, however OSA continues to trace this resolution.
  - *S.B. 161* – Legislation sponsored by Senators Tim Schaffer and Terry Johnson, this bill would require the Director of Job and Family Services to seek permission to exclude certain items from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Such items include soft drinks, candy, chips, ice cream, and prepared desserts. While the language of the bill is not of concern to OSA, Sen Terry Johnson mention seed oils in a statement during sponsor testimony in Senate Health Committee. OSA will continue to educate the General Assembly as needed on issues related to the MAHA movement.
- **Ohio International Trade Commission (H.B. 291)** – This bill, sponsored by Reps. Ty Mathews and Nick Santucci would create the Ohio International Trade Commission focused on advancing trade between Ohio and other nations. During sponsor testimony, Rep. Mathews noted agriculture as one of Ohio's



leading markets both domestically and internationally. OSA will engage in this legislation to ensure that agriculture's voice is heard in the trade conversation.

**State Budget** – The Senate has introduced their amended budget bill. In this bill, H2Ohio is still seeing some changes. The ODA line item for H2Ohio increased from \$33.7M to \$46.1M but still not restored to Executive version of \$60.7 M. The EPA line item reduced from \$14.9 M to \$7.5 M. The ODNR line item reduced from \$26.2 M to \$21.2 M. Also, OSU Extension and Ag Research saw no change from the House version and is still taking a 3% cut for both items.

Of large concern to OSA, the Ohio Senate added a provision to the state budget which includes an elimination of the Ag Sales Tax exemption for drain tile and storage bins. The Ohio Soybean Association is working to advocate for an amendment to restore exemption. The ag sales tax exemption is designed to prevent value-added products in our food system from being taxed multiple times through the value chain. It's an important tool for cost effective farm operations. We have included a call-to-action in the Leader Letter.

**Committee Updates** – There have been recent changes to some House Committee Chairs. In mid-May, Rep. Don Jones was appointed to chair of the House Agriculture Committee. However, with his recent appointment to the Farm Service Agency, Rep. Roy Klopfenstein has been appointed as the new House Agriculture Chairman. Vice Chair of House Natural Resources committee, Monica Robb Blasdel, was appointed to chair of Natural Resources, with Rep. Tex Fisher being appointed as Vice Chair.