



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE – DEMOCRATS

2013 Farm Bill

Title I: Commodities

- Repeals direct payments, saving taxpayers nearly \$40 billion and ensuring that farmers who don't need help will not receive government subsidies.
- Sets new income requirements that ensure millionaire farmers do not receive government support.
- Gives producers the choice between two counter-cyclical farm safety net programs, which only support farmers during the difficult times:
 - Price Loss Coverage (PLC) addresses deep, multiple-year price declines.
 - Revenue Loss Coverage (RLC) addresses revenue losses.
- Eliminates two cotton farm programs and reforms another to address the WTO Brazil cotton case.
- Reauthorizes no cost sugar policy.
- Creates a new dairy safety net by replacing current outdated and ineffective dairy programs with a voluntary Margin Protection Program. Producers participating in the margin program will also participate in the Dairy Market Stabilization Program. The dairy reforms address the challenges in today's dairy industry while stabilizing milk prices for both producers and consumers.

Livestock disaster assistance programs will be available to cover 2012 losses and continued into the future:

- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

Title II: Conservation

- Gradually reduces maximum Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment to 24 million acres; adds flexibility for haying and grazing; continues the Transition Incentive Program; and allows for one-time early out of contracts.
- Maintains current funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) at \$974 million.
- Continues the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) at 8.695 million acres per year.

- Provides \$30 million for the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program
 - Establishes a new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) consolidating farm/ranch land easement and wetland easement programs.
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) leverages USDA funding and resources by partnering with third parties or working directly with producers in watersheds and other critical conservation areas.
 - Provides \$250 million for the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program.
 - Provides \$5 million for the Grassroots Source Water Protection Program to help ensure safe drinking water supplies in rural areas.
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Title III: Trade

Reauthorizes the following programs:

- Market Access Program (MAP)
 - Foreign Market Development Program (FMD)
 - Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC)
 - Export Credits (GSM-102)
 - Emerging Markets Program (EMP)
 - Global Crop Diversity Trust
 - The Food for Peace Act
 - Food for Progress program
 - Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust
 - McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program
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Title IV: Nutrition

The Senate farm bill cuts roughly \$4 billion from nutrition programs. The final product will be a compromise between the two bodies, making more realistic reforms to nutrition.

- Restricts categorical eligibility for SNAP to only those households receiving cash assistance from Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or other state general assistance programs.
- Closes a loophole related to how Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) payments interact with SNAP benefit calculation.
- Provides an additional \$20 million per year in additional support for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).
- Increases funding for Community Food Projects from \$5 million to \$15 million per year, with a focus on low-income communities.

- Bolsters USDA's enforcement of anti-trafficking efforts with \$5 million in additional funding.
- Allows SNAP benefits to be used for participation in Community Supported Agriculture.
- Expands the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program to include low-income families.
- Maintains funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and allows elementary schools with a high proportion of low-income students to purchase fresh, frozen, canned and dried produce.
- Maintains current funding for the DOD Fresh Program and creates a pilot program to allow up to five states to use their allocation to source local produce.
- Reauthorizes funding for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
- Improves the quality of SNAP-approved retailers by requiring participating retailers to stock more staple foods like fruits and vegetables; includes provisions to further monitor and prevent fraud at retail stores; and allows more service options for homebound elderly or disabled SNAP recipients.
- Eliminates State Performance Bonuses.
- Ends SNAP Benefits for Lottery Winners.
- Requires states to verify benefits are not being paid to deceased individuals and that beneficiaries are not receiving payments in more than one state. Requires states to use an immigration status verification system to verify an applicant's immigration status.
- Prevents SNAP benefits from being used to pay for substantial bottle deposits.
- Prohibits states from allowing medical marijuana to be treated as a medical expense for purposes of income deductions when calculating SNAP benefits.
- Prevents USDA from advertising the SNAP program through television, radio and billboard advertisements and prohibits USDA from entering into agreements with foreign governments designed to promote SNAP benefits.
- Calls for outcomes from the SNAP Employment and Training Program

Title V: Credit

- Increases the loan guarantee amount for the Conservation and Loan Guarantee Program from 75 percent to 90 percent.
- Updates the Down Payment loan program limit from \$500,000 to \$667,000.

Enhances Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher Provisions:

- Reauthorizes the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program.
- Continues Loan Fund Set-Asides.
- Provides priority for joint financing participation loans and down payment loans within direct farm ownership loans.
- Removes median farm size limitation by replacing “median” with “average”.
- Provides the Secretary with discretion in defining the experience necessary to qualify a beginning farmer or rancher for a farm ownership loan.
- Authorizes Microloan Program to target loans of \$35,000 or less to new or non-traditional producers.

Title VI: Rural Development

Provides \$50 million in funding for Value-Added Producer Grants.

Reauthorizes the following programs:

- Water, Waste Disposal and Wastewater Facility Grants
- Circuit Rider Program
- Imminent Community Water Assistance Grants
- The Intermediary Relending Program
- The Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program
- Rural Cooperative Development Grants are extended
- The Broadband Loan Program
- The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program
- Community Facilities loan and grant programs
- The Northern Great Plains and the Delta Regional Authorities

Title VII: Research, Extension and Related Programs

Provides funding for specific research programs:

- Specialty Crop Research Initiative – \$555 million
- Organic Research and Extension Initiative – \$100 million
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program – \$100 million
- Includes outreach to veteran farmers and ranchers under the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development program.
- Extends authority for intramural research programs carried out by the Agricultural Research Service; Economic Research Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Forest Service.
- Extends authority for extramural research grants and formula funds programs administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

- Reauthorizes University research for agricultural activities for 1862, 1890 and 1994 Land grant colleges and universities; competitive grants to Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA) institutions are also reauthorized.
- Reauthorizes The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board.
- Includes the Veterinarian Services Investment Act, requiring an entity to develop programs to relieve shortages, support private practices, and support those practices that successfully complete a specified service requirement.

Title VIII: Forestry

- Extends the successful Forest Stewardship Contracting program, incentivizing local businesses to manage federal forestland.
- Provides authority for the Forest Service to accelerate its treatment of pine bark beetle infestation and natural disasters.
- Updates the strategic plan for the Forest Inventory and Analysis.

Reauthorizes the following programs:

- Forest Legacy Program
- Office of International Forestry
- The Rural Revitalization Technologies program
- The Healthy Forest Reserve Program

Title IX: Energy

Reauthorizes with discretionary funding:

Rural Energy for America (REAP)

- Creates a tiered, streamlined, and efficient application process for farmers and rural businesses applying for smaller or less costly projects to install renewable or energy efficient systems. The authority for feasibility studies is eliminated and a new definition for renewable energy systems is created to clarify congressional intent by eliminating eligibility for ethanol blender pumps.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

- Prioritizes funding for the establishment of dedicated energy crops by eliminating Collection, Harvest, Storage, and Transportation (CHST) payments.

Biorefinery Assistance Program (BAP)

- Eliminates grant authority for demonstration facilities.

Biobased Markets Program

- Amends the definition of “biobased product” to include a definition of “forest product” for USDA’s BioPreferred program.

Reauthorizes the following programs:

- Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels
- Biodiesel Fuel Education Program
- Repowering Assistance Program
- Biomass Research and Development Program
- Feedstock Flexibility Program
- Community Wood Energy Program

Repeals or ends the following authorizations:

- Biofuels Infrastructure Study
- Renewable Fertilizer Study
- Rural Energy Self-sufficiency Initiative
- Forest Biomass for Energy Programs

Title X: Horticulture

- Provides \$150 million to the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program. This investment recognizes the growing consumer demand to improve direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities, including the development of local food systems.
- Increases funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program by \$250 million over ten years.
- Authorizes the first of its kind organic checkoff program, giving organic producers the opportunity to institute an industry-funded USDA research and promotion program.
- Reauthorizes the Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives Program and the National Organic Program, enhancing investigation and enforcement tools.
- Reauthorizes and consolidates the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program with the National Clean Plant Network.
- Includes the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, which eliminates a duplicative permitting requirement for pesticide applications.
- Imposes a temporary stay on the EPA from initiating a modification or cancellation of a pesticide registration based on the Biological Opinions of the National Marine Fisheries Service or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service an unbiased, external scientific peer review of these biological opinions can be conducted and the scientific questions challenging the validity of these consultations can be resolved.

Title XI: Crop Insurance

- Establishes a Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) to address a portion of losses not covered by individual crop insurance policies.
 - Encourages beginning farmers and ranchers, for their initial five years of production, through a 10 percentage point crop insurance premium reduction and improved production histories where natural disasters have depressed current Actual Production History (APH) yields.
 - Expands Risk Management for Specialty Crops and Underserved Commodities.
 - Addresses problems with declining APH yields due to multiple year disasters by providing a transitional yield that reflects a producer's production capability on that land.
 - Creates the STAX crop insurance program to provide cotton producers with a WTO compliant farm safety net.
 - Authorizes whole farm insurance coverage which provides better risk management for diversified, smaller operations.
 - Requires that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) share information and encourages correction of errors.
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Title XII- Miscellaneous

- Provides \$50 million for Section 2501 Program for Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and expands programs to include veteran farmers or ranchers.
- Reauthorizes funding for USDA's Office of Advocacy and Outreach.
- Establishes a USDA Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison to aid veteran beginning farmers and ranchers.
- Establishes an Office of Tribal Relations to advise the Secretary on policies related to Indian tribes.
- Reauthorizes appropriations for grants to improve supply, stability, safety and training of the agricultural labor force.
- Amends the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program to direct the Secretary to provide coverage based on individual yields equivalent to the catastrophic risk protection available or additional coverage available that does not exceed 65 percent. Provides that for limited resource, beginning, and socially disadvantaged producers, the premium for noninsured crop assistance shall be 50 percent of the premium of other producers.
- Directs federal agencies to establish guidelines, and then follow such guidelines, for the use of sound science in agency rulemaking.