



Title I -- Commodities

- Rebalance of loan rates and target prices on wheat, barley, oats, oilseeds, small chickpeas and graded wool.
- Strengthens payment limits. Individuals with a 3 year average AGI greater than \$1 million are ineligible to receive benefits from federal farm and conservation programs. Eliminates the triple-entity rule and provides direct attribution of payments to individuals to prevent circumvention of limits. Lifts limit on marketing loans and increases direct payment limit to \$60,000 from \$40,000.
- Provides onetime choice to producers to enroll in traditional commodity programs or new revenue coverage program.
- Continues MILC at current support levels; allows dairy forward contracting – sunset at end of farm bill; establishes import dairy assessment for dairy checkoff.
- Prohibits county FSA committees to waive “sodbuster,” thereby denying crop insurance benefits on newly converted native sod for the first 4 years the land is broken.

Title II – Conservation

- Extends Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) at current 39.2 million acre cap.
 - Includes a new provision to allow retired landowners participating in CRP to modify contracts if the land is being transferred to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.
- Extends and Increases Funding for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Increases funding for EQIP by \$2 billion by 2012.
 - Includes the promotion of forest management and energy conservation in the EQIP program goals, while continuing to allocate 60% of the program funds for livestock production.
 - Expands the activities for which a producer can receive incentive payments to include technical services that will help fruit and vegetable producers access the program.
- Changes Conservation Security Program (CSP) by collapsing tiered system and replacing with an annual stewardship enhancement payment to compensate producers for new and ongoing implementation/maintenance of conservation practices and activities. No new CSP enrollments will be allowed for the life of the bill. Allows contract modification of existing contracts for those under the old CSP program.
- Streamlines CSP by requiring USDA to consider the multiple benefits of conservation-based farming and organic production when ranking applications. Requires USDA to establish a method to allow producers to certify their eligibility for CSP at the same time they certify their operations as organic.
- Reestablishes baseline for Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

Title III – Trade

- Increases funding for MAP by \$125 million over 5 years.
- Increases TA for specialty crops program to help with sanitary/phytosanitary and technical barriers that keep fruits/veggies out of certain markets.
- Allows MAP funding to promote U.S. tobacco abroad.

Title IV – Nutrition

- Offsets found by the Ways and Means Committee, and approved by the House, allow for a \$4 billion increase in funding for nutrition programs to expand food stamp benefits to more needy families.
- McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program funded with mandatory \$840 million over five years.
- The House passed a sense of Congress offered by Rep. Jackson-Lee (TX) that school lunches and breakfasts should be of good nutritional value to reduce the incidence of juvenile obesity.
- Included in the en bloc amendment was an amendment offered by Rep. Welch (VT) to encourage schools that participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program to submit plans for implementation that include locally grown foods when geographically available.
- Requires all states to use Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards and ends the use of stamps or coupons.
- Extends USDA Snack Program to all 50 states and continues DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, both of which provide fresh fruits and vegetables to school children.
- Increases funding for the Emergency Assistance Food Program and the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

Title V -- Credit

- Increased farm ownership limits to \$300,000 from \$200,000.
- Language to expand FCS lending authority for rural housing to communities of 6,000 and to renewable energy facilities was struck via an amendment from Rep. Barney Frank.
- Prioritizes beginning farmers/ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers/ranchers by creating eligibility and ranking priority in credit programs.

Title VI – Rural Development

Prepared by NFU Legislative Staff

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- Provides multi-year grants for RCDG centers with a proven track record of successfully starting businesses in rural America.
- Provides grant authority to USDA for public television stations to convert to digital service.
- Improves access to broadband telecommunication services in rural areas. Directs RUS broadband loans to companies providing service to unserved households.
- Extends the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant program and establishes a 10% set-aside for beginning farmers/ranchers.
- Creates new Rural Entrepreneur and Microenterprise Assistance Program to provide technical and financial assistance to micro-enterprises and small businesses in rural areas with less than 10 employees.

Title VII – Research

- Creates a National Agriculture Research Program Office to coordinate USDA's research activities.
- Establishes an office to administer competitive grants.
- Gives high priority to research projects related to specialty crops, bioenergy and biobased products.
- Expands research for uses of co-products of ethanol production.
- Approved amendment from Rep. John Barrow, D-Ga., to establish five "Future Farm Operation Demonstration" projects.

Title VIII – Forestry

- Directs each state to conduct a comprehensive assessment of forest resources and develop a long-term strategy for their management.
- Extends the Healthy Forest Reserve Program and the Emergency Forest Conservation Program.
- Addresses the use of forest products in energy production by reauthorizing Rural Revitalization Technologies.

Title IX – Energy

- Biomass R&D proposal facilitates greater usefulness and benefit of a kernel of corn by providing research into improving the quality of dried distillers grain.
- Includes biodiesel into the Bioenergy Program (section 9010 of the 2002 Farm Bill) to help expand the burgeoning renewable fuel industry by encompassing even more renewable sources of energy.
- Provides funding to study the feasibility of a dedicated ethanol pipeline.

- Expands universities that do work in alternative energy related fields that are eligible for the biofuels from biomass internship program.
- Creates a demonstration project to enable sweet sorghum to be used as an ethanol feedstock.
- Authorizes a grant program, the "Community Wood Energy Program", to help rural communities and locally-owned businesses utilize low-grade renewable biomass in electricity generation.

Title X – Horticulture and Organics

- Specialty Crop Block Grants extended through 2012. The block grants provided to states are to support projects in research, marketing, education, pest and disease management, production and food safety.
- In addition to the purchases already required, the Secretary shall purchase fruits, vegetables and nuts for the purpose of providing nutritious foods for use in domestic nutrition assistance programs. Fruits, vegetables and nuts may be purchased in the form of frozen, canned, dried or fresh. The Secretary may consider offering value-added products containing fruits, vegetables or nuts if the demand exists and eligible entities are interested.
- Provides new funding to support organic farmers - \$22 million in mandatory funding for USDA's cost-share program; \$3 million in mandatory funds for organic marketing data collection and publication.
- Creates a New Program to Support Producers Transitioning to Organics- adopted with funding of \$50 million. Half of the money (\$25 million) goes into a new grant program to which producers can apply for assistance through the 3 year transition period. The rest of the funding goes toward increased technical assistance for organic production.
- Beginning in 2008, the Secretary must include specialty crops in each census of agriculture.

Title XI – Miscellaneous

- Prohibits closure of any USDA field office for one year after enactment of bill.
- Requires GIPSA to undertake rulemaking to establish standards for the regulation of arbitration.
- Includes a sense of the Committee that manure not be classified as toxic material under Superfund.
- Allows interstate shipment of state-inspected meat and poultry products.
- COOL – goat meat added; includes language to allow less burdensome implementation for meat and produce COOL.