



CONGRESSWOMAN

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Representing New Hampshire's Second District

2014 Farm Bill Highlights

Conservation

- *Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)*: includes a change championed by Rep. Kuster which will ensure that at least 5% of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds go to wildlife habitats through WHIP
- *Conservation Compliance*: requires that farmers who participate in crop insurance programs practice basic environmental conservation
- *Regional Equity*: maintains regional equity with small modifications

Organics & Specialty Crops

- *Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)*: provides a total of \$100 million in mandatory funding over five years for OREI
- *Organic Research and Promotion Program*: authorizes an organic check-off program, allowing organic producers the opportunity to establish an industry-funded USDA research and promotion program
- *Organic Certification Cost Share*: provides \$11.5 million per year for organic certification cost share
- *National Organic Program (NOP)*: provides \$5 million per year in mandatory funding and includes language to provide NOP with enhanced investigation and enforcement tools
- *Specialty Crop Block Grant Program*: provides \$290 million in mandatory funding and for the first time explicitly permits multi-state projects
- *Specialty Crop Research Initiative*: includes \$800 million over five years
- *Maple Syrup*: includes a provision championed by Rep. Kuster and Rep. Courtney which authorizes \$20 million in appropriated funds each year for grants to state governments and research institutions to promote the domestic maple syrup industry

Forestry

- *Bio-Based Markets Program*: includes language pushed by Rep. Kuster to ensure that American forest products are included in the USDA's BioPreferred labeling program
- *Forest Roads*: retains language from the Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act, which Rep. Kuster cosponsored, to provide regulatory certainty for businesses regarding forest roads and Clean Water Act permits
- *Forest Legacy Program (FLP)*: reauthorizes FLP for an additional five years

Energy

- *Rural Energy Assistance Program (REAP)*: creates a mandatory funding baseline of \$50 million per year to ensure that REAP will remain an important part of the Farm Bill's energy programs; also creates a streamlined and efficient application process for farmers and rural businesses applying for smaller or less costly projects to install renewable or energy efficient programs
- *Community Wood Energy Program*: reauthorizes CWEP for an additional five years
- *Bioenergy*: reauthorizes and provides funding for a number of bioenergy and biomass programs, including the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), Biorefinery Assistance Program, Biodiesel Fuel Education Program, and the Biomass Research and Development Program

Rural Development

- *Rural Community Colleges*: includes Rep. Kuster's amendment which requires the development of a coordinated strategy for how USDA Rural Development programs can support and partner with rural community colleges
- *Water and Wastewater Systems*: provides \$150 million in mandatory funding for programs that help communities maintain and expand their water and wastewater systems
- *National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA)*: reauthorizes NORA through 2018
- *Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)*: provides funding for the PILT program for Fiscal Year 2014, which will preserve the \$1.8 million that New Hampshire towns receive from this important program

Nutrition

- *The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)*: provides an additional \$20 million per year in funding for TEFAP above current levels
- *SNAP Employment & Training*: invests \$200 million in pilot programs for employment and training in up to ten states
- *Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)*: authorizes the HFFI, a public-private partnership that uses federal funds to attract private investment in farmers markets, cooperatives, and other food markets in communities that face barriers to carrying and selling healthy foods
- *Access to Local Foods*: provides \$100 million for SNAP incentives grants to increase purchases of fruits and vegetables, allows SNAP benefits to be used for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), and expands the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program to include low-income families

Beginning Farmers & Veterans

- *Access to Credit*: enhances beginning and socially disadvantaged farmer and rancher provisions in a host of credit programs including specific set-asides, microloans, elimination of FSA term limits, and allows debt forgiveness in certain circumstances
- *Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program*: provides \$100 million in funding and increases outreach to veteran farmers and ranchers
- *Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers*: provides \$50 million for the Section 2501 Program and expands the program to include veteran farmers and ranchers
- *Veterans Liaison*: establishes a USDA Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison to aid veteran farmers and ranchers

Dairy

- *Dairy Margin Insurance*: creates a new margin insurance program to protect farm equity by guarding against destructively low margins; continues the MILC program until the new program is running
- *Dairy Product Donation Program*: also creates a new program which, when triggered, requires the USDA to purchase dairy products for donation to food banks and other programs; this program would be triggered in the event of extremely low operating margins for dairy farmers

Miscellaneous

- *Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)*: requires that FDA, when publishing the final Produce Rule, include an analysis of the information used in developing the final rule, an analysis on the economic impact of the rule, and a plan to evaluate any impacts and respond to producer concerns
- *Farmers Market & Local Food Promotion Program*: provides \$150 million in mandatory funding to promote and improve direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities
- *King Amendment*: does NOT include harmful language which would have overturned California's cage-free egg laws and prevented states from setting other standards for agricultural products