## 2014 Farm Bill Highlights

### Farm Safety Net

**Before the 2014 Farm Bill**
- The 2008 Farm Bill continued direct payments—a system that paid producers regardless of whether they incurred losses.
- Disaster assistance programs expired in fiscal year 2011. Since then, producers impacted by disease or adverse weather conditions have not received financial assistance for losses incurred.

**2014 Farm Bill**
- Eliminates direct payments and continues crop insurance.
- Producers will choose between the Price Loss Coverage and Agricultural Risk Coverage. Establishes the Dairy Margin Protection program.
- Restores livestock disaster assistance for losses dating back to 2011, and establishes a permanent livestock disaster program.

### Rural Development

**Before the 2014 Farm Bill**
- USDA programs support investments in the rural economy through grants, loans and loan guarantees with an emphasis on essential infrastructure, small business development, job creation, and growth.

**2014 Farm Bill**
- Continues USDA Rural Development programs. Provides $15 million to support rural business development and growth through the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.
- Provides $150 million for water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Reserves 10% of certain programs for regional, long-term investments to better promote economic development through regional planning and leveraging of resources.

### Trade and Foreign Agriculture

**Before the 2014 Farm Bill**
- USDA expands markets for U.S. agricultural goods through the Foreign Market Development Program and Market Access Program. Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) authorized as a pilot to provide international development assistance and expedite food aid.

**2014 Farm Bill**
- Continues authorization for $200 million annually for international market development.
- Authorizes up to $80 million for LRP and makes the program permanent.
- Provides more flexibility for USAID to use cash assistance in administering the Food for Peace program.
- Increases flexibility for assistance in emergency situations.

### Research

**Before the 2014 Farm Bill**
- USDA advances scientific knowledge related to agriculture through research, extension, and education. Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) funded at $40 million annually.

**2014 Farm Bill**
- Endows $200 million for a foundation for agricultural research.
- Doubles the funding for SCRI to $80 million annually.

### Conservation

**Before the 2014 Farm Bill**
- The 2008 Farm Bill built on past farm bills, providing further conservation opportunities for farms and ranchers.

**2014 Farm Bill**
- Consolidates conservation programs for flexibility, accountability and adaptability at the local level.
- Links basic conservation practices to crop insurance premium subsidy for highly erodible lands and wetlands.
- Builds upon previous successful partnerships and encourages agricultural producers and partners to design conservation projects that focus on and address regional priorities.
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<th>Category</th>
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| **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**   | • The 2008 Farm Bill established new energy programs, including the Biorefinery Assistance Program, the Biobased Marketing Program and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program. | • Reauthorizes and provides $880 million for energy programs established in the 2008 Farm Bill.  
• Expands Biorefinery Assistance Program to include biobased product and renewable chemical manufacturing.  
• Expands Biopreferred program to include forestry products. |
| **Forestry**                                 | • The Forest Service (FS) was granted Stewardship Contracting Authority through FY14.  
• Good Neighbor Authority allowed State Foresters in CO and UT to conduct restoration services on National Forest System Lands. Expanded to include all states in FY14, through FY18. | • Makes Stewardship Contracting Authority permanent, allowing FS to conduct restoration work and stimulate job growth.  
• Makes the Good Neighbor Authority permanent and available nationwide. |
| **Nutrition**                                | • The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the cornerstone of the Nation's food assistance safety net, helping families put food on the table.  
• The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) supports food banks and food pantries. | • Maintains SNAP eligibility for millions of low-income families.  
• Provides $200 million for job training and $100 million to increase fruit and vegetable purchases.  
• Provides $250 million in additional funding for TEFAP.  
• Authorizes $125 million for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative to make nutritious food more accessible. |
| **Next Generation Farmers and Ranchers**     | • The 2008 Farm Bill established the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program with $75 million for FY 2009 to FY 2012. | • Provides $100 million for the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program.  
• Increases access to capital and supports crop insurance and risk management tools, including reducing crop insurance premiums during the first 5 years of farming. |
| **Local and Regional Food Systems**          | • The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funded at $10 million annually. | • Renames FMPP to “Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program” and provides $30 million annually.  
• Continues to reserve funds in the Business & Industry Loan Program for locally- and regionally- focused businesses.  
• Advances growth of local and regional food systems with $65 million for Value Added Product Market Development Grants. |
| **Specialty Crops and Organics**             | • Funded the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBG) at $52 million annually to promote fruit and vegetable production.  
• The 2008 Farm Bill provided $55 million to strengthen the nation's infrastructure for pest detection and threat mitigation, and to safeguard nursery production. | • Provides $72.5 million annually for SCBG.  
• Provides new resources for organic farmers, including funding the Organic Cost Share program at $11.5 million annually.  
• Increases funding for pest and disease management and disaster prevention to $62.5 million per year, and $75 million in FY 2018 and beyond. |

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