

# Farm Bill Summit

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*Opening Presentation by*

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# What Is the Federal Farm Bill?



- Comprehensive legislation governing farm, food, fiber, nutrition and rural policy
- Authorized by Congress every five to seven years since the Great Depression

Picture credit: [www.aviewoncities.com](http://www.aviewoncities.com)

# Why the Farm Bill Matters



- ❑ \$\$ Billions in funding and policies that impact:
  - How food is grown
  - What kind of food is grown
  - Who can grow it
  - Health and welfare of farmers and farm workers
  - Rural communities
  - Rural landscapes
  - Environment and natural resources
  - Our Diets and Public health
  - Food availability worldwide

# 2008 Farm Bill By Title

15 “titles” in 2008 – titles are not static - 5 new ones in 2008 Farm Bill

- Commodity Programs
- Conservation
- Trade and Food Aid
- Nutrition
- Credit
- Rural Development
- Research
- Forestry
- Energy (*new in 2002*)
- Horticulture & Organic Agriculture (*new in 2008*)
- Livestock and Competition (*new in 2008*)
- Crop Insurance & Disaster Assistance (*somewhat new in 2008*)
- Commodity Futures (*new in 2008*)
- Miscellaneous
- Trade & Tax Provisions (*new in 2008*) – included \$14.5 B in new \$\$  
(this last title via House Ways & Means and Senate Finance Committees; unlikely to happen again)

# Two Engine Locomotive

## 1 - Commodity Title

(feed grains, food grains, oilseeds, cotton, dairy, sugar, peanuts)

## 2 – Nutrition Title

(Primarily SNAP/Food Stamps)

- Without them, no Farm Bill
- But lots of “train cars” pulled behind them
- Some with policy and direct farm bill money, others just policy and authorizations for later appropriations
- For example.... (next slide)

# Examples of NSAC Wins in Last 4 Farm Bills

## Research Title

- Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education program
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
- Small & Medium-Sized Family Farm research grants
- Organic Research & Extension Initiative

## Conservation Title

- Wetlands Reserve Program
- CRP Conservation Buffer Initiative
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Organic Conversion Assistance

# Some NSAC Wins in Last 4 Farm Bills

(continued)

## Horticulture Title

- Farmers Market Promotion Program
- National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program

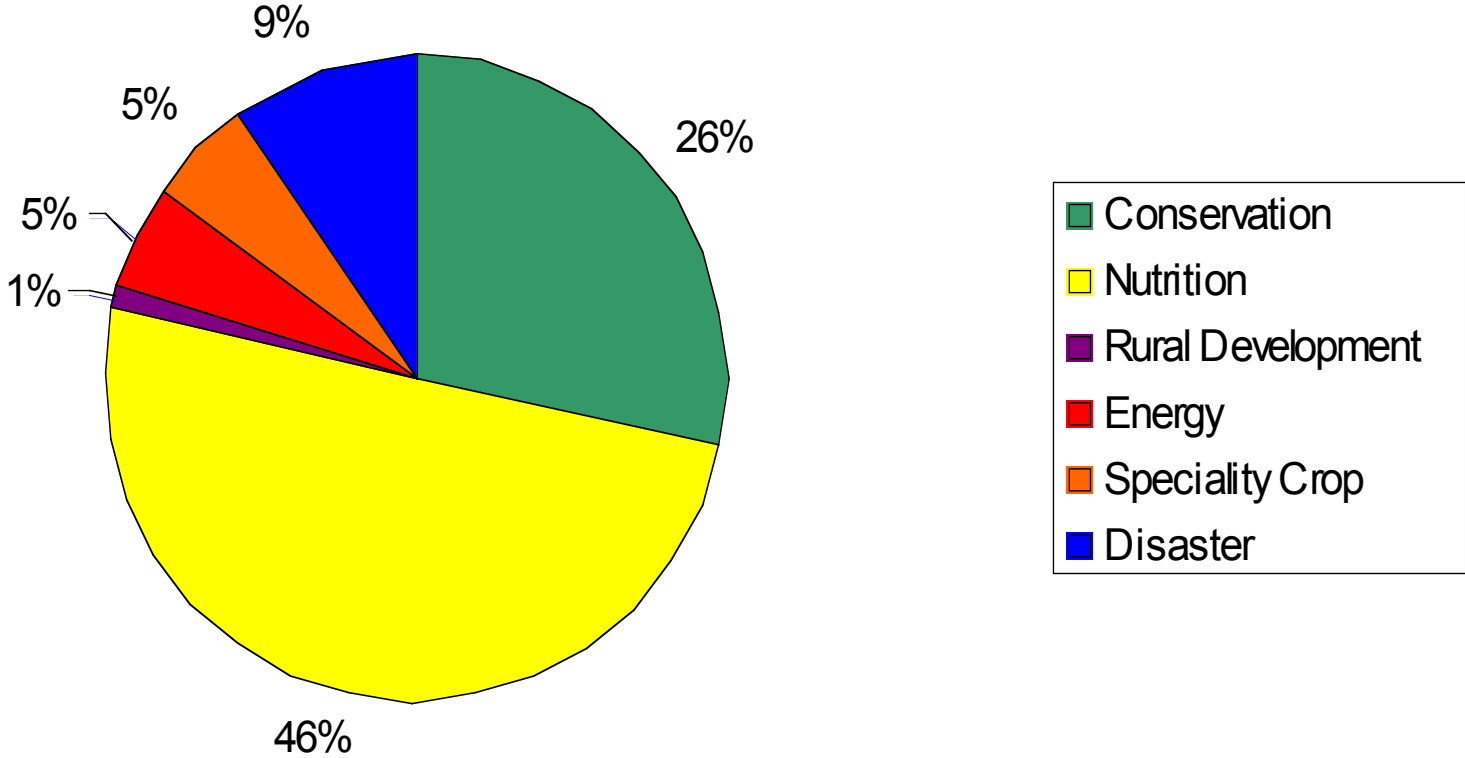
## Rural Development Title

- Value-Added Producer Grants program
- Local & Regional Food Enterprise Guaranteed Loans
- Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program

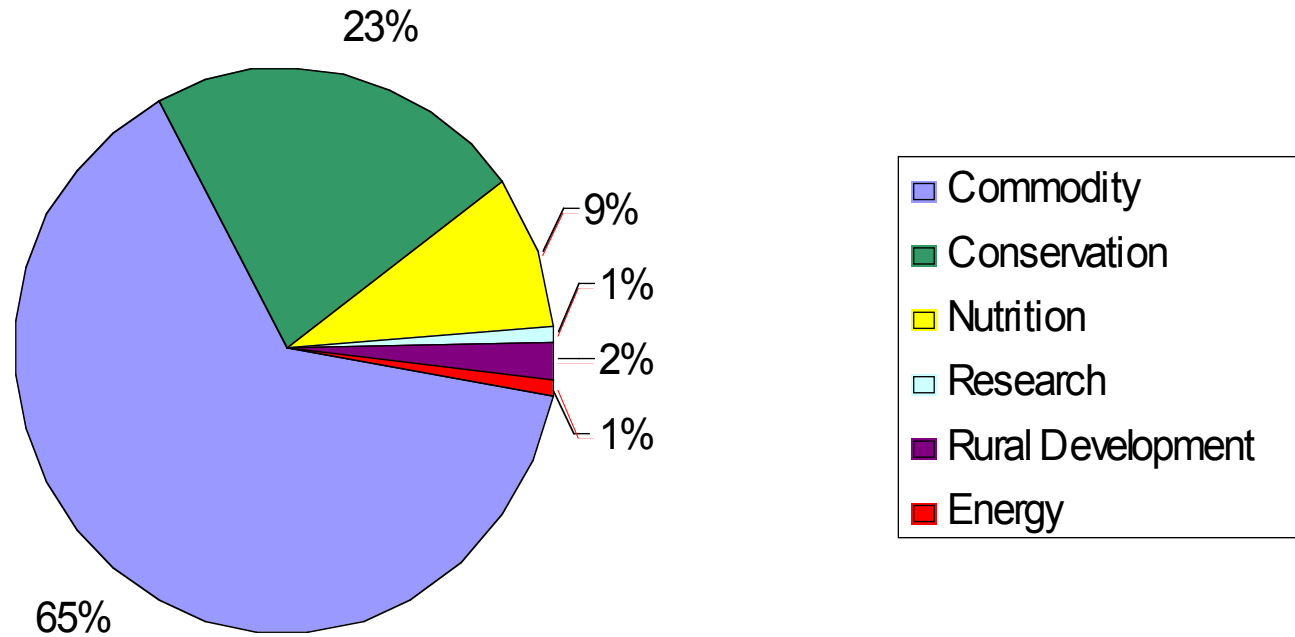
## Credit Title

- Higher and More Targeted Credit Authorization Levels
- Beginning Farmer Down Payment Loans
- Beginning & Minority Farmer Targeting Provisions
- USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach

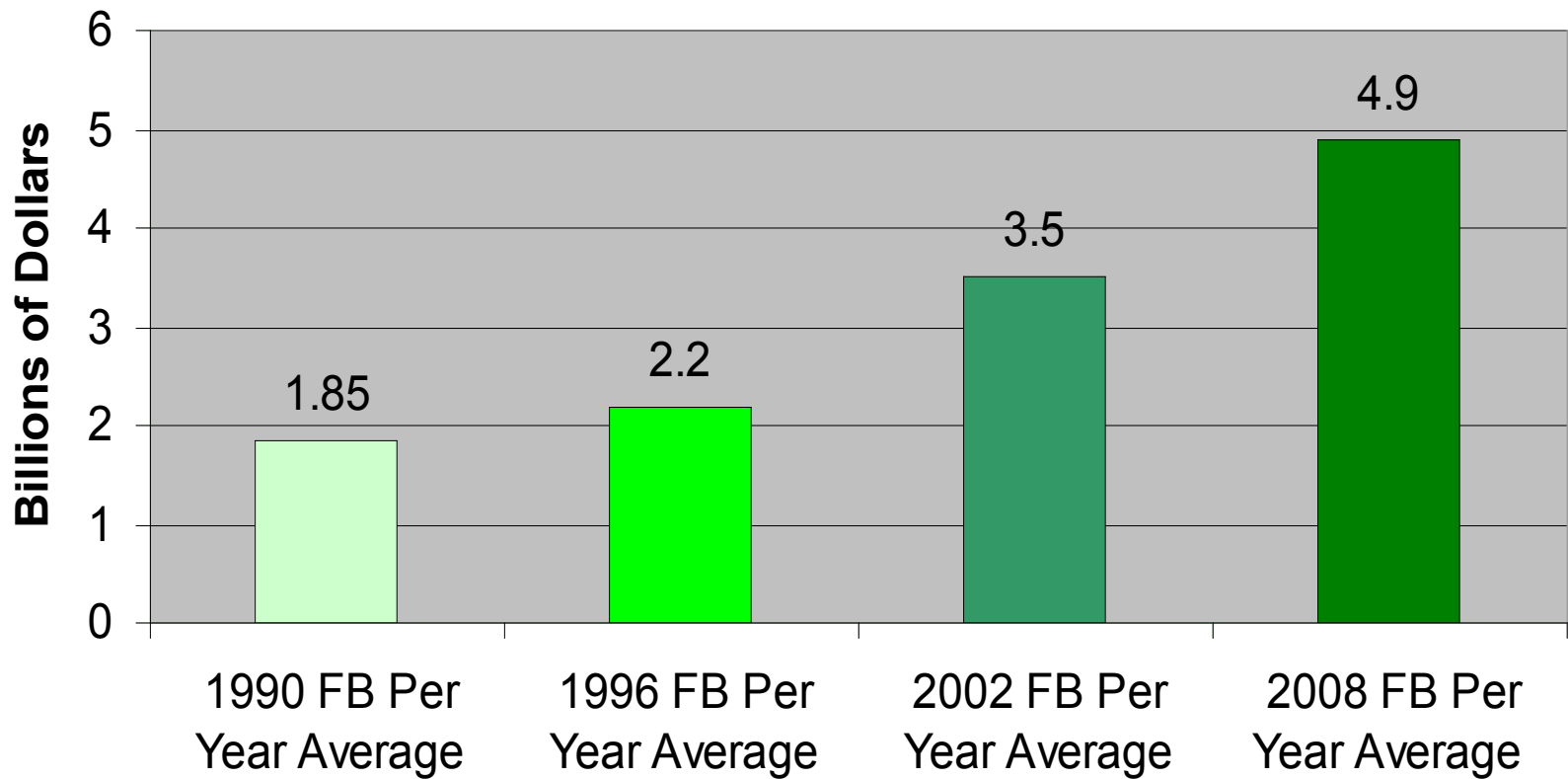
# Distribution of the \$14.5 Billion Net Increase in 2008 Farm Bill Spending



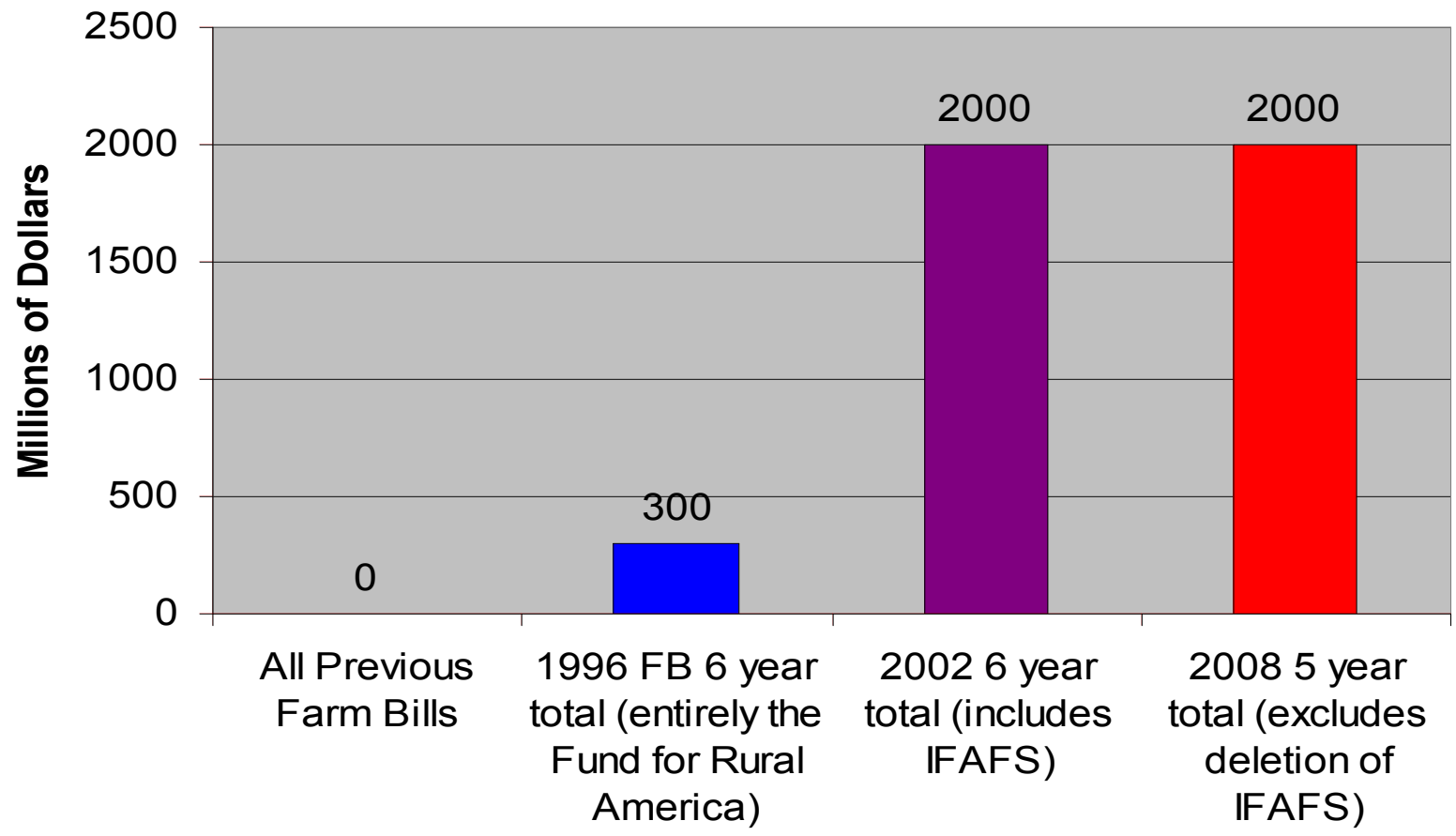
## Distribution of the \$73.5 Billion Net Increase in 2002 Farm Bill Spending



## Comparison of Mandatory Conservation Spending 1990, 1996, 2002, and 2008



**Total Mandatory Funding for Rural Development, Research,  
Forestry, Energy, Organic, Beginning/Minority Farmers  
1996, 2002, and 2008 Farm Bills**



# QUESTION #1

**WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING YEARS  
ALL HAVE IN COMMON ???**

1982, 1987, 1989,

1990, 1993, 1996,

2005

# ANSWER

- In each of those years there were Budget Reconciliation bills (deficit reducing budget cut bills) that reduced Farm Bill spending.
- Two of those occurred simultaneously with the Farm Bill (1990 and 1996)
- Until the 2005 version, most of the budget cuts were to commodity programs, but in 2005 conservation and other titles got hit hard.

## QUESTION #2

WHAT DO THESE \$\$ #s REPRESENT?

- \$696 BILLION
  - \$83 BILLION
  - \$65 BILLION
  - \$64 BILLION
    - \$16 BILLION

# ANSWER

The 10-Year Budget Baselines for 2011-2020 for:

- \$696 billion = SNAP and Nutrition Programs
- \$83 billion = Crop Insurance Subsidies
- \$65 billion = Conservation Programs
- \$64 billion = Commodity Subsidies
- \$16 billion = Everything Else Combined

Note: Based on CBO March 2010 numbers that will change come March 2011, with top two likely going up and bottom three likely fairly static.

## QUESTION #3

**WHAT IS  
38 PROGRAMS WIDE  
AND \$9 BILLION DEEP?**

# ANSWER

- The Number of Programs with Direct Mandatory Farm Bill Funding in Current Farm Bill Cycle with No Funding Baseline after 2012
- The Dollar Value of those programs  
(with Disaster “SURE” Payments Accounting for Half)
- But also in the mix are ....(next slide)

# Baseline – Parade of Zeroes

Wetlands Reserve Program

Rural Energy for America Program

Grasslands Reserve Program

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

CRP-Transition Incentives Program

Value-Added Producer Grants

Rural Micro-Enterprise Assistance

Organic Data Initiative

National Organic Certification Cost Share

Farmers Market Promotion Program

Outreach and Assistance for Minority Farmers

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Program

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

# What is the Administration Saying?

- No Administration Farm Bill Proposal
- But Talk about “Farm & Rural Development Act”
- RD Big 5 – Energy, Broadband, Local and Regional Food System, Landscape Amenities, Regional Innovation

## Administration - continued

- Conservation Budget Cuts proposed in FY 10, 11, 12 and in Child Nutrition
- To Date, Punting on Commodity Program Reform
- But Strong GIPSA Livestock Rule
- Know Your Farmer/Food Initiative
- Let's Move!

# Senate Agriculture Committee

- Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) – New Chair
- Pat Roberts (R-KS) New Ranking Member
- 5 Former Chairs - Leahy, Harkin, Lugar, Cochran, Chambliss – plus Roberts (former House Ag Chair)
- Budget Chair and Key Player – Conrad

# House Agriculture Committee

- Frank Lucas (R-OK) – New Chair
- Collin Peterson (D-MN) – Ranking Member
- 17 Frosh GOP out of 26 GOP Members
- 7 New Dems out of 20 Dem Members

# **PARTING SHOT 1**

**PROTECT  
YOUR  
BASE !!!!**

## PARTING SHOT 2

- PROTECT YOUR BASE

**PUSH THE ENVELOPE –  
HARD !!!**

## PARTING SHOT 3

- PROTECT YOUR BASE
- PUSH THE ENVELOPE – HARD

**UNITE, ORGANIZE !!!!**

# THE ROAD TO REFORM

- PROTECT YOUR BASE
- PUSH THE ENVELOPE – HARD
- UNITE, ORGANIZE
- **WIN !!!!**

# Stay Informed!



## National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

[www.sustainableagriculture.net](http://www.sustainableagriculture.net)

Farm Bill Guide

Farm Bill Implementation Center

Weekly Updates & Timely Action Alerts