



# 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.

## Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

### Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The 2008 Farm Bill established new energy programs, including the Biorefinery Assistance Program, the Biobased Marketing Program and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program.

### 2014 Farm Bill

- 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

### Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- 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.

### 2014 Farm Bill

- 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

### Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- 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.

### 2014 Farm Bill

- 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

### Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The 2008 Farm Bill established the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program with \$75 million for FY 2009 to FY 2012.

### 2014 Farm Bill

- 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

### Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funded at \$10 million annually.

### 2014 Farm Bill

- 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

### Before the 2014 Farm Bill

- 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.

### 2014 Farm Bill

- 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.