



The Network
for Public Health Law

Ideas. Experience. Practical answers.

Farm Bill Update, Including a Focus on the Nutrition Title

Presented January 25, 2013

Midwest Environmental Health Summit

Des Moines, Iowa

Why Analyze the Farm Bill?

- » **Main source of federal law governing agriculture**
- » **The 2008 Farm Bill budget was nearly \$ 300 billion for five years (before adjustments)**
- » **About half of U.S. land mass is farmland**
- » **Impact on what we eat, who has access to food, and the quality of our soil, air, and water**
- » **Vehicle to promote better health**

Current Status of the Farm Bill

- » **2008 Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2012**
- » **Continuing Appropriations Resolution of 2013**
- » **Partial extension in the American Taxpayer Relief Act**

Partial Farm Bill Extension

- » **In general, Farm Bill programs are extended until September 30, 2013**
- » **Unless the Act provides otherwise, mandatory programs continue at the same funding levels in effect on September 30, 2012.**
- » **Numerous programs have reduced funding, or are shifted from mandatory to discretionary status**

Commodity Programs

- » **Programs to support covered commodities, loan commodities, peanuts, sugarcane, and sugar beets extended for the 2013 crop year.**

Covered and loan commodities generally include:

Corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, rice, grain sorghum, barley, oats, dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, wool, mohair, and honey.

- » **Extends dairy product price support program and milk income loss contract program.**
- » **Suspends application of permanent law.**
- » **No major substantive changes adopted.**

Conservation Programs

- » **Conservation Reserve Program extended; maximum enrollment of 32 million acres.**
- » **Grant program to support voluntary public access to privately-held land for purposes such as hunting or fishing changed now discretionary.**
- » **Conservation Stewardship Program, Farmland Protection Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program previously extended through fiscal year 2014.**
- » **Wetlands Reserve Program and Grasslands Reserve Program authority has been extended and they may have mandatory 2008 Farm Bill dollars remaining.**

Nutrition Programs

- » **Extends requirement that states implement an employment and training program for SNAP participants.**
- » **Substantially reduces funding available for nutrition education and obesity prevention grant program (SNAP-Ed).**
- » **SNAP funding level is likely to continue to be subject of debate for any long-term Farm Bill**

Research Programs

- » **Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, Specialty Crop Research Initiative, and Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program all changed from mandatory programs to discretionary programs.**

Energy Programs

- » **Changes the Biomass Crop Assistance Program from mandatory to discretionary**
- » **Extends a number of discretionary programs, including:**

Biobased Markets Program

Biorefinery Assistance

Repowering Assistance

Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

Biodiesel Fuel Education Program

Rural Energy for America Program

Biomass Research and
Development

Rural Energy Self-

Sufficiency Initiative

Feedstock Flexibility

Program for Producers

Horticulture and Organic Agriculture Programs

» **Changes a variety of programs from mandatory to discretionary, including:**

Farmers' Market Promotion Program

National Clean Plant Network

National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program

Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives

Outreach and Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

- » **Changes grant program for outreach and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers from mandatory to discretionary**

Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance

» **Authorizes discretionary appropriations for each of fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for a number of disaster assistance programs, including**

Livestock Indemnity Program

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Tree Assistance Program

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish

» **These programs were mandatory from 2008-2011**

Other Exceptions to Farm Bill Extension

- » **Certain international food aid programs**
- » **Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program**
- » **Value Added Producer Grant Program**
- » **Survey and report regarding foods purchased by school food authorities**

Life Cycle of the Farm Bill

- » **Agenda development, coalition building**
- » **Citizen input and lobbying (throughout process)**
- » **Congressional hearings**
- » **Bill drafting and amendments**
- » **Passage in each house; conference committee**
- » **Presidential approval**
- » **Implementation—rulemaking; competitive grant making**
- » **Appropriations**

Why Focus on Nutrition Title?

- » **Substantial majority of Farm Bill budget**
- » **Over 45 million Americans participate in SNAP**
- » **National conversation about changing the American diet**
- » **Entry point for non-rural policymakers and citizens**
- » **Multiple purposes for nutrition programs**

National Prevention Strategy

- » **The federal government will:**
- » **Improve agricultural policies to better align with the nutrition goals of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans**
- » **National prevention strategy touchstones:**
 - Effective and achievable
 - Improve health status of Americans
 - Reduce incidence of preventable illness and disability
- » **National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council, National Prevention Strategy (2011), p. 35, at www.healthcare.gov/prevention/nphpphc/strategy/report.pdf.**

The Farm Bill and Nutrition



Photo courtesy of flickr

What Are “Commodities?”

In the farm commodity programs, the word **commodities** generally refers to **nonperishable crops, including:**

- » **Cotton**
- » **Corn**
- » **Wheat**
- » **Soybeans**
- » **Rice**

Commodities also include lentils and garbanzo beans

What Are “Subsidies?”

» **Farm Commodity Program**

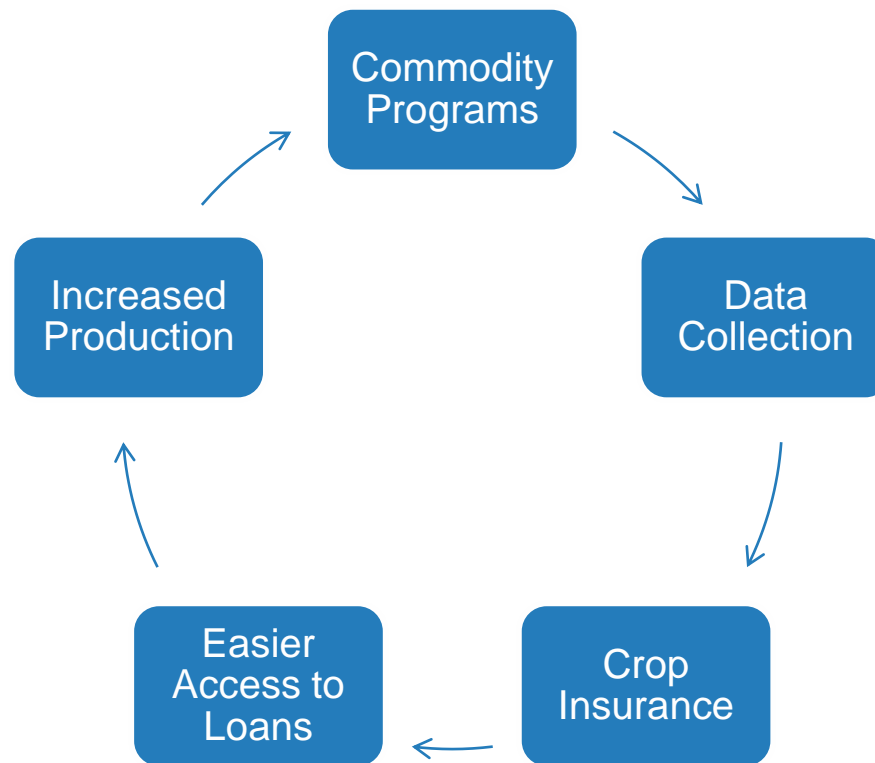
Direct Payments

Counter-cyclical Payments

» **Crop Insurance Premium Subsidies**

» **Other Farm Bill programs and provisions?**

Farm Programs: A Cycle of Support



Nutrition Title Programs

- » **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly food stamps)**
- » **The Emergency Food Assistance Program TEFAP**
- » **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations**
- » **Commodity Supplemental Food Program**
- » **Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program**
- » **Community Food Projects**
- » **Child Nutrition Act related programs**

SNAP Policy Statement

It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress, in order to promote the general welfare, to **safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's population by raising levels of nutrition among low-income households.** Congress hereby finds that the limited food purchasing power of low-income households contributes to **hunger and malnutrition** among members of such households. Congress further finds that increased utilization of food in establishing and maintaining adequate national levels of nutrition will **promote the distribution in a beneficial manner of the Nation's agricultural abundance and will strengthen the Nation's agricultural economy,** as well as result in more orderly marketing and distribution of foods. To alleviate such hunger and malnutrition, a supplemental nutrition assistance program is herein authorized which will permit low-income households to obtain a more nutritious diet through normal channels of trade by increasing food purchasing power for all eligible households who apply for participation.

7 U.S. Code section 2011

SNAP and Healthy Eating

Policy initiatives proposed or implemented at the local level include:

- » **Use of EBT at farmers' markets (also FMNP)**
- » **Healthy Incentives Pilot**
- » **Tighten requirements for vendors**
- » **Prohibit use of SNAP benefits to purchase unhealthy foods**
- » **Increase funding and benefits to improve link between Thrifty Food Plan and Dietary Guidelines**

Know Your Farmer Know Your Food



Know Your Farmer and Nutrition

- » **Grants, Loans and Support (Memos by program)**
- » **Specialty Crop Block Grants**
- » **Specialty Crop Research Initiative**
- » **Community Food Projects**
- » **Farmers' Market Promotion Program**
- » **Food hubs**
- » **Urban agriculture**
- » **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program**

Additional Resources from the Network for Public Health Law

[How the Farm Bill Affects Public Health: An Overview](#)

[How the Farm Bill Affects Public Health](#)

[Public Health Professionals and the Farm Bill: How to Get Involved](#)

[Provisions Relevant to Public Health in the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act \(Senate Version, 2012 Farm Bill\)](#)

[One-Year Extension of Farm and Nutrition Programs Contained in the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012](#)

All resources posted at:

www.networkforphl.org/network_resources/network_products/farm_bill_and_public_health_products/

Additional Resources

Patricia Elliott and Amanda Raziano, *The Farm Bill and Public Health: A Primer for Public Health Professionals* (APHA Issue Brief, 2012), available at <http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/71D6995A-C346-4227-BDE0-DAB37EF5F16E/0/FarmBillandPublicHealth.pdf>.

Jill Krueger et al., *Planting the Seeds for Public Health: How the Farm Bill Can Help Farmers to Produce and Distribute Healthy Foods*, available at www.flaginc.org/topics/pubs/farmbill.php

Jim Monke, *Budget Issues Shaping a 2012 Farm Bill*, Cong. Research Serv., R42484 (June 1, 2012), <http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R42484.pdf>

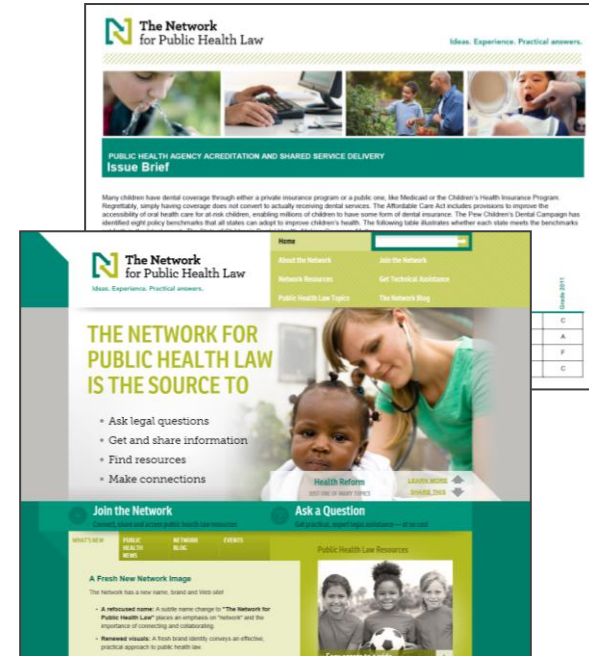
Building Sustainable Farms, Ranches and Communities: Federal Programs for Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, Entrepreneurship, Conservation, and Community Development (USDA 2009), available at www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Building-Sustainable-Farms-Ranches-and-Communities

The Network for Public Health Law

Contact the Network to:

- Get practical legal assistance on a variety of public health topics
- Find helpful resources from webinars and trainings to fact sheets and legal briefs
- Connect with a community of experts and users of public health law

Support is available at no cost! Visit www.networkforphl.org for more information.



The screenshot displays the website's layout. At the top, the logo and tagline "The Network for Public Health Law" are visible, along with the slogan "Ideas. Experience. Practical answers." Below this, there are several small images representing different public health topics. The main content area features a "PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY ACCREDITATION AND SHARED SERVICE DELIVERY Issue Brief" with a sub-header "Issue Brief". The text below discusses dental coverage for children and mentions the Affordable Care Act. A navigation menu on the right includes "Home", "About the Network", "Join the Network", "Network's Resources", "Get Technical Assistance", "Public Health Law Topics", and "The Network Blog". A large central banner reads "THE NETWORK FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LAW IS THE SOURCE TO" followed by a list of services: "Ask legal questions", "Get and share information", "Find resources", and "Make connections". Below this, there are sections for "Join the Network" and "Ask a Question". A "Public Health Law Resources" section is also visible, featuring a "A Fresh New Network Image" announcement with bullet points: "A refreshed name: A subtle name change to 'The Network for Public Health Law' places an emphasis on 'network' and the importance of connecting and collaborating.", "Refreshed visuals: A fresh brand identity conveys an effective, practical approach to public health law.", and "Public Health Law Resources" with an image of three children.

Contact Me

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The screenshot shows the homepage of The Network for Public Health Law. At the top left is the logo and tagline: "The Network for Public Health Law. Ideas. Experience. Practical answers." To the right is a navigation menu with links: Home, About the Network, Network Resources, Public Health Law Topics, Join the Network, Get Technical Assistance, and The Network Blog. Below the navigation is a large banner image of a healthcare professional examining a young child. The banner text reads: "THE NETWORK FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LAW IS THE SOURCE TO" followed by a bulleted list: "Ask legal questions", "Get and share information", "Find resources", and "Make connections". Below the list is a "Health Reform" section with "LEARN MORE" and "SHARE THIS" buttons. At the bottom of the banner are two call-to-action buttons: "Join the Network" (Connect, share and access public health law resources) and "Ask a Question" (Get practical, expert legal assistance — at no cost). Below the banner is a navigation bar with "WHAT'S NEW", "PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS", "NETWORK BLOG", and "EVENTS". The main content area features a "Public Health Law Resources" section with a sub-heading "Protecting Older Adults in Emergencies" and a brief description: "Events such as Hurricane Katrina have shown that older adults are at greater risk of illness and death during emergencies. Impaired mobility,..." followed by a small image of three people.