

Info Alert

National Conference of State Legislatures Office of State-Federal Relations

December 31, 2012

Over the weekend, three different extension of the 2008 Farm Bill were introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.). The first is a [one year extension of the 2008 Farm Bill](#) that would last through fiscal 2013, while the second is a [one month extension](#) of the 2008 Farm Bill and the third is a [one month extension of only current dairy programs](#). All three options would put on hold a return to 1949 permanent law, delaying the so-called “dairy cliff” that is set to occur Jan. 1. The [Congressional Budget Office estimated](#) that the one year extension would cost \$986 million. The one year extension also includes nearly \$850 million in disaster aid to help farmers who have been affected by the recent drought. CBO ‘s estimate also notes that the bill would provide 2013 funding for rural development, minority farmer outreach, specialty crop research, direct farmer to consumer markets, and a variety of other programs. The one-year extension would also provide funding for renewable energy programs and some but not all organic agriculture program. However, it was still being determined whether USDA would be able to resume sign-ups and sign contracts with farmers for the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Conservation Reserve Program-Transition Incentive Program.

Ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) noted that while he was supportive of a one year extension, he would not support the two one month extensions. In the Senate, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) issued a statement noting that if Congress did not pass a new farm bill by Monday night, she would back the extension bill introduced in the House.

Both the House and Senate are in session today to try and reach an agreement regarding the fiscal cliff. If any agreement is reached it appears likely, but not assured, that one of these bills would be attached.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Farm Bill please contact NCSL staff [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597). Please be aware that due to the upcoming holiday, it may take some time to return messages. Thank you.