

Info Alert

National Conference of State Legislatures Office of State-Federal Relations

July 30, 2012

Late last week, it was announced that in light of the drought affecting a large portion of the continental United States, [the House would take up a bill](#) that would both extend authorization for the 2008 farm bill, the *Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008* (PL 110-246) by one year as well as reauthorize, for FY 2012 and FY 2013, certain livestock disaster-aid programs including the Livestock Indemnity Payments (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Programs (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) which had previously expired in September 2011. The bill, according to the [Congressional Budget Office](#), has a 10-year cost of \$621 million, which is offset by a reduction in direct farm payments and conservation spending, including cuts within the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Additionally, this extension would level fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP funding levels were proposed to be cut by \$4.5 billion in the 2012 Senate approved Farm Bill and by \$16.5 billion in the 2012 Farm Bill approved by the House Agriculture Committee.

At this time, it is unclear how the Senate will act, but both chambers are expected to adjourn at the end of this week for the start of their annual August recess. The 2008 farm bill is currently set to expire on September 30.

As always if you have any questions on these or other issues, please contact [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Glen Andersen](#) (303-856-1341)