

Info Alert

National Conference of State Legislatures Office of State-Federal Relations

House Approves Revised 2013 Farm Bill

July 11, 2013

On July 11, the U.S. House of Representatives approved its version of the 2013 farm bill, the [Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013](#), 216 to 208, with no Democrats voting for the bill.

Overall, the measure extends federal farm, rural development and agricultural programs through FY 2018. The House bill, similar to the Senate bill, repeals direct and countercyclical payments and replaces them with two new risk-management programs. The bill also increases crop insurance while consolidating the number of conservation programs as well as establishing a new dairy program. Specifics on these can be found in [NCSL's Farm Bill Analysis](#) from earlier this year.

However, one significant change in this bill, as compared to the bill approved by the House Agriculture Committee, is that this bill contains neither a nutrition title nor the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), leaving just the agriculture and farm titles. House leadership made the decision to strip out the nutrition title following last month's initial defeat of the farm bill in the House. Another major difference in the bill are certain provisions that would repeal current permanent farm law, which is based on laws approved prior to 1950. These changes include making Title I, the commodity title covering crops, dairy and sugar permanent law, which would allow programs in Title I to remain active should the authorization of the farm bill expire in FY 2018. Some Congressmen have noted that if Title I were to become permanent law, it would be much more difficult for Congress to write new farm bills that cover all the other areas within a farm bill, such as conservation, rural development, research and energy programs.

Previously, on June 10, the Senate approved its version, [the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013](#) (S. 954), which does include the nutrition title and SNAP, by a vote of 66 to 27. The [House](#) and [Senate](#) are now expected to move to a conference to merge their two versions together. Current farm programs expire on Sept. 30 although SNAP would continue to operate at current provisions if no reauthorization or extension is approved.

Additional Links: [Congressional Budget Office Bill Score](#)

If you have any additional questions or concerns on the 2013 farm bill, please contact [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597)