

# Info Alert

## National Conference of State Legislatures Office of State-Federal Relations

### 2013 Farm Bill Expected to Be Completed in January

Dec. 11, 2013

On Dec. 10, the lead negotiators for the 2013 Farm Bill, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and House Agriculture Committee Chair Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) conceded that they will not complete an agreement before the end of the year. However, they both insisted that they are close to a final deal, with Senator Stabenow stating that “we will be ready to vote in January.”

In response to the acknowledgement, Chairman Lucas filed a one month extension of current farm law through Jan. 31, 2014. It remains unclear if either chamber will vote on the extension as the impacts of waiting until early January for approving a Farm Bill rather than in late December are expected to be very minimal. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid noted that “we’re not going to do it,” in reference to a vote on a one month extension.

Previously, 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](#). On June 10, the Senate approved its version, the [Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013](#) (S. 954). Specifics on these can be found in [NCSL’s Farm Bill Analysis](#).

For a complete breakdown and side by side of the House and Senate versions as compared to current law, please review the Congressional Research Service’s Report that was released in October ([click here](#)).

As always if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact NCSL staff [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597).