



AGRICULTURE & ENERGY COMMITTEE— SENATE PASSES 2012 FARM BILL REAUTHORIZATION (S. 3240)

June 22, 2012

On June 21, the Senate approved the “[Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012](#),” more commonly known as the 2012 Farm Bill by vote of 64 - 35. The bill is estimated to cost \$969 billion between 2013 and 2022, \$23.6 billion less than the previous farm bill, approved in 2008. For a full breakdown of the agriculture related provisions in the Farm Bill, please review [the summary released on May 2 by the NCSL Agriculture and Energy Committee](#). For a full breakdown of the provisions of the nutrition related provisions in the Farm Bill, please review [the summary released on May 2 by the NCSL Human Services and Welfare Committee](#).

Following the bill’s introduction in the Senate on June 7, over 300 germane and non-germane amendments were submitted for consideration. However, Senate Agriculture Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (Mich.) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nev.) struck a deal on what amendments would be considered, reducing that number to 73. Beginning on June 19, the 73 amendments chosen were voted on - alternating between Democrat and Republican sponsored amendments and several required 60 votes for passage.

Many amendments were debated during the voting process, especially those related to the commodity title. For example, S.A. 2439 - an amendment sponsored by Senator Tom Coburn (Okla.) - reduces the level of federal premium support for crop insurance by 15 percent for individuals with an adjusted gross income above \$750,000. The amendment passed by a vote of 66 – 33. As far as the rural development title, one amendment of particular note was the approval of mandatory funding for rural development and beginning farmer and rancher programs. S.A. 2445 – an amendment sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown (Ohio) – provides for mandatory funding for the rural development title. Its passage helped to allay many of the concerns some senators had expressed previously, since this has been touted as a “job’s bill” and the rural development title supports jobs in rural communities through infrastructure projects, investments in beginner, low-income and/or minority farmers and ranchers, and other economic development initiatives. Another contentious commodity debate surrounded the federal sugar program. The Senate debated the federal sugar program as part of S.A. 2433 – an amendment co-sponsored by Senator Pat Tommey (Pa.) and Senator Jeanne Shaheen (N.H.) – that would have removed or altered several changes to the sugar program that were added as provisions in the 2008 “farm bill.” The amendment failed by a vote of 46 – 53. However, S.A. 2340 – an amendment sponsored by Senator Saxby Chambliss (Ga.) – which extends the timeframe for sugar imports did find support and passed by a voice vote.

In the House, the House Agriculture Committee will hold a business meeting on July, 11 to begin its mark up of the House version of the 2012 “Farm Bill.” Authorization for the current Farm Bill expires at the end of September.

For additional information on the amendment debate in the Senate, please review the scorecard below for amendments and final votes.

Additional Information

[Comparison of the Manager’s Amendment and the Committee Print of the 2012 “Farm Bill”](#)

[Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\) Cost Estimate of 2012 “Farm Bill”](#)

[Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\) Cost Estimate on Title I Commodity Payments](#)

[State of Administration Policy from the White House](#)

For more information on the farm programs, please contact Marcus Peterson (marcus.peterson@ncsl.org) or Ben Husch (ben.husch@ncsl.org). For more information regarding nutrition programs, please contact Sheri Steisel (sheri.steisel@ncsl.org) or Emily Wengrovius (emily.wengrovius@ncsl.org).

2012 "Farm Bill" Scorecard *(in order of vote sequence)*

Senator	Amendment No.	Vote (Yea – Nay)	Brief Summary
Akaka (Hawaii)	2440	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Provides loans to purchasers of highly fractionated tribal lands.
Snowe (Maine)	2190	Voice Vote – Nays Followed by Roll Call Vote 66-33	Reforms milk marketing order form.
Akaka (Hawaii)	2396	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Establishes a tribal relations office.
Ayotte (N.H.)	2192	38-61	Improves value-added agricultural products grants.
Baucus (Mont.)	2429	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Improves the Livestock Forage Program.
Collins (Maine)	2444	Withdrawn due to passage of the Snowe Amendment (S.A. 2190)	-
Bingaman (N.M.)	2364	Withdrawn from Vote schedule due to changes from the manager	-
Grassley (Iowa)	2167	75-24	Limits gains on marketing loans to \$75,000 for an individual.
Brown (Ohio)	2445	55-44	Provides mandatory funding rural development and beginning farmer and rancher programs.
Sessions (Ala.)	2174	43 - 56	Limits eligibility for SNAP to households in which each member receives cash assistance under a state program.
Cantwell (Wash.)	2370	58 - 41	Promotes the purchase of pulse crop products for school meals.
Nelson (Neb.)/Sessions (Ala.)	2243/2172	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Limits the way state bonus payments can be used.
		41 - 58	Repeals state bonus payments under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

Casey (Pa.)	2238	73 - 26	Require a more frequent dairy reporting, conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing two classes of milk (fluid and manufacturing).
Paul (Ky.)	2181	15 - 84	Establish a \$250,000 adjusted gross income level to receive benefits in the farm bill.
Coons (Del.)	2426	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Provides for a poultry insurance study
Alexander (Tenn.)	2191	33 – 66	Any cooperative organization or other entity that receives a loan or loan guarantee under this subsection for a wind project would be ineligible for any other federal benefit, assistance, or incentive for any other project under any other provision.
Feinstein (Calif.)	2422	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Provides for conservation innovation grants.
McCain (Ariz.)	2199	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Creates a USDA inspection program for domestic and imported catfish.
Feinstein (Calif.)	2309	76 - 23	Requires a study on determining whether offering policies that provide coverage for specialty crops involving food-safety issues.
Toomey (Pa.)	2217	42 - 57	Eliminates a \$750 cost-share program to help farmers convert from conventional to organic productions.
Gillibrand (N.Y.)	2156	33 - 66	Reduces the premium subsidy for crop insurance and using the savings to restore funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as well as the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.
DeMint (S.C.)	2263	45 - 54	Extending the date of a provision from 2012 to 2017.
Hagan (N.C.)	2366	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Requires better accessibility for crop insurance, including updating website and spelling out information in simpler language.
DeMint (S.C.)	2262	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Add a senate of the Senate that nothing in this act or an amendment made by this act should manipulate prices or interfere with the free market.
Kerry (Mass.)	2187	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Allows for emergency loans for commercial fishermen.
DeMint (S.C.)	2268	14 - 48	No loan guarantee may be provided by the Secretary or any other federal official for any project or activity carried out by the Secretary.
Landrieu (La.)	2321	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Provides for rural development loans.
DeMint (S.C.)	2276	20 – 79	Prohibiting mandatory or compulsory check-off programs.
Manchin (W. Va.)	2345	Voice Vote – Yeas	Creates a national nutritional and dietary study for pregnant women

		Amendment agreed to.	and children under age 2.
DeMint (S.C.)	2273	44 – 55	Any amount given to any community grant shall not exceed 50% of the development costs of rural broadband projects.
Merkley (Ore.)	2382	63 – 36	Directs USDA Risk Management Program to establish better indemnity prices for organic crops.
Coburn (Okla.)	2289	30 – 69	Reduce funding for the Market Access Program by 20% and restrict its use for certain uses.
Schumer (N.Y.)	2427	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Provides for grants through the Acer Access and Development Program.
Coburn (Okla.)	2293	63 – 36	Impose an adjusted gross income cap for conservation projects.
Stabenow (Mich.)	2453	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Makes changes to the Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP).
Kerry (Mass.)	2454	59 - 40	Provides presidential waiver authority for prohibiting food assistance to North Korea.
Kyl (Ariz.)	2354	43 - 56	Prohibits food assistance to North Korea. Lacks waiver authority
Udall (Colo.)	2295	77 – 22	Establishes \$200 million in funding to address insect infestations and related diseases involving the Pine Bark beetle.
Lee (Utah)	2313	21 - 77	Repeals the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978.
Warner (Va.)	2457	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Provides for loans and grants for the expansion of broadband services in rural areas.
Lee (Utah)	2314	15 - 84	Repeals the Conservation Reserve Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program.
Wyden (Ore.)	2442	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Provides for microloans to initiate gleaner programs.
Boozman (Ark.)	2355	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Funds the National Agriculture Law Library at \$1 million a year.
Wyden (Ore.)	2388	Division Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Facilitates better access for locally produced foods for the school lunch program.
Boozman (Ark.)	2360	35 - 63	Changes emergency food assistance.
Leahy (Vt.)	2204	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Establishes state rural development councils.
Toomey (Pa.)	2226	36 - 63	Strikes language in Energy Title regarding specific support.
Nelson (Neb.)	2242	Voice Vote – Yeas	Redefines the definition of rural from 25,000 people to 35,000 for

		Amendment agreed to.	rural housing loans.
Toomey (Pa.)	2433	46 - 53	Makes changes to the sugar program.
Klobucher (Minn.)	2299	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Requires a report on transportation issues regarding the movement of agricultural products, domestically produced renewable fuels and renewable energy.
Lee (Utah)	-	29 - 70	Motion to Recommit to FY 2008 Farm Bill Funding Levels.
Carper (Del.)	2287	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Expands research and extension grants for improving poultry feed.
Johnson (Wis.)	-	40 - 59	Motion to Recommit Nutrition and Agriculture Titles, Requiring the 2012 Farm Bill to Proceed Forward as Two Separate Bills.
Sanders (Vt.)	2254	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Establishes \$50,000 biomass consumer cooperative grants.
Chambliss (Ga.)	2438	52 - 47	Applies highly-erodible land conservation compliance to eligibility for crop insurance.
Thune (S.D.)	2437	44 - 55	Reduces the level of federal premium support for crop insurance by 15% for people with adjusted gross income above \$750,000. Similar to #2439, but requires a delay of implementation until a study is completed on the effects of such limits.
Durbin (Ill.)/Coburn (Okla.)	2439	66 - 33	Reduces the level of federal premium support for crop insurance by 15% for people with AGI above \$750,000.
Chambliss (Ga.)	2340	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Adjusts sugar import quota date from Feb. 1 to April 1.
Chambliss (Ga.)	2432	Voice Vote – Nays Amendment rejected.	Would eliminate funding for Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program.
Ayotte (N.H.)	2195	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Requires the GAO to study and submit a report to Congress on fraudulent crop insurance claims.
Blunt (Miss.)	2246	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Creates new position at USDA to help military veterans access farm programs. Also creates more agricultural training tailored to veterans.
Moran (Va.)	2403	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Sets the minimum level of non-emergency food assistance from "not less than 15%" to "not less than 20%."
Moran (Va.)	2443	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Scales back funding for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.
Vitter (La.)	2363	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Animal welfare of common, domesticated household animals.

Toomey (Pa.)	2247	58 – 41 Amendment rejected due to failure to meet 60 vote threshold.	Establishes consumer confidence reports by community water systems.
Sanders (Vt.)	2310	26 – 73 Amendment rejected due to failure to meet 60 vote threshold.	Adds a consumer's right to know about genetically engineered food, requiring labeling.
Coburn (Okla.)	2214	95 - 4	Prohibits presidential election campaign funds to be used for party conventions after this year
Boxer (Calif.)	2456	47 – 47 Amendment rejected due to failure to meet 60 vote threshold.	EPA administrator shall only conduct aerial overflights to inspect agricultural operations if it is deemed more cost-effective than ground inspections and EPA has notified state officials of such flights.
Johanns (Neb.)	2372	56 – 43 Amendment rejected due to failure to meet 60 vote threshold.	An amendment prohibiting EPA from conducting aerial surveillance to inspect agricultural operations or to record images of agricultural operations.
Murray (Wash.) /McCain (Ariz.)	2455/2162	Voice Vote – Yeas Amendment agreed to.	Report on sequestration as it applies to the overall federal budget and the Department of Defense (DoD). The two amendments were combined as a compromise in order to meet the 60 vote threshold.
Rubio (Fla.)	2166	45 – 54 Amendment rejected due to failure to meet 60 vote threshold.	Change under National Labor Relations Act to prohibit payments of higher wages or compensation other than provided in a contract or agreement.
Passage of S.3240 as amended		64 - 35	