

CRS Report for Congress

Possible Expiration of the 2002 Farm Bill

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Jasper Womach
Specialist in Agricultural Policy
Resources, Science, and Industry Division



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Summary

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171, the 2002 farm bill) authorizes an array of farm commodity support, conservation, and nutrition programs. Many provisions of the 2002 farm bill were scheduled to expire in 2007. However, the farm commodity support provisions expire with the 2007 crop. Hence, participating farmers continue to receive payments on their 2007 crop beyond the end of fiscal or calendar year 2007. If a new farm bill is not enacted in time for the 2008 harvest, permanent law will take effect. Under permanent law, eligible commodities would be supported at levels much higher than they are now, but many of the currently supported commodities would not be eligible (including soybeans and peanuts). Permanent law is so radically different from current policy and inconsistent with today's farming, marketing, and trade practices, as well as costly to the federal government, that Congress is unlikely to let it take effect.

For most of the other farm bill programs that were in effect on September 30, 2007, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161) extended their authority until March 15, 2008. The duration of the extension is expected to be sufficient for conference negotiations to resolve differences between the House- and Senate-passed farm bills (H.R. 2419). The dairy, sugar, and wool and mohair programs also are extended until March 15.

Programs that are *not* extended include the direct, counter-cyclical, and marketing loan programs for the 2008 crop year for all other commodities, peanut storage payments, community food projects authorized under the Food Stamp Act, the rural broadband program, value-added market development grants, federal procurement of biobased products, the biodiesel fuel education program, and the renewable energy systems program.

Most of the long-standing USDA conservation programs are permanently authorized and received an appropriation for FY2008 in P.L. 110-161. Other conservation programs that pay farmers to remove fragile cropland from production are authorized and received mandatory funding from the 2002 farm bill. Many of these programs expired on September 30, 2007, but were extended until March 15, 2008, by P.L. 110-161. Three conservation programs are funded at specific levels through March 15, 2008 — the Farmland Protection Program, the Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. Two conservation programs that pay farmers for adopting resource stewardship practices (the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Security Program) were extended beyond FY2007 by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171).

The domestic food and nutrition programs administered by the USDA are permanently authorized and their funding would not be affected by the possible expiration of the 2002 farm bill — since these programs received an appropriation for FY2008 in P.L. 110-161. They include, for example, food stamps, child nutrition programs, and the WIC program.

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Possible Expiration of the 2002 Farm Bill

What are the consequences of Congress not having enacted a new farm bill before the end of fiscal year 2007, the commonly reported expiration date of many of the provisions of the 2002 farm bill? What might happen if a new farm bill is not enacted in early 2008? Would programs authorized by the expiring legislation cease to operate, or would they continue under non-expiring provisions of permanent law? Where there is permanent law, would the design and funding change?

The 2002 omnibus farm bill (P.L. 107-171) includes a wide range of program authorities, some of which are mandatory and others discretionary. Mandatory, in this context, means that the authority to spend necessary funds is provided by statute.¹ This mandatory category includes the commodity support programs, export programs, some conservation programs, and food stamps.² Discretionary programs are authorized, but annual funding is subject to congressionally approved appropriations. Discretionary programs in the farm bill include some conservation programs, federal farm loan programs, rural development programs, agricultural research, and foreign food aid, among others.

In nearly all cases, a farm bill supersedes permanent authorizing law for a period of four to six years. The farm bill is important because it may substantially change program design from what is in the permanent law, as is the case with commodity support programs. Typically, with regard to appropriated programs, the farm bill sets upper limits on program activity levels and appropriations authority.

Without an extension, most appropriated programs (also referred to as discretionary programs) in the 2002 farm bill and some mandatory programs, such as food stamps, would face the prospect of not having statutory authority for the appropriations committees to provide funding in FY2008 and subsequent years. The lack of authority to appropriate funds for authorized programs (and even for some programs not authorized) has not been a barrier for appropriations in past Congresses.

Fiscal year 2007 came to a close on September 30, 2007, without either a new farm bill or an FY2008 appropriations act. Hence, Congress adopted several continuing resolutions (P.L. 110-92, P.L. 110-161, P.L. 110-137, and P.L. 110-149) last fall that provided stopgap funding for most non-defense spending until annual FY2008 appropriations bills were enacted. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161), signed into law on December 26, 2007, provides funding for non-defense discretionary spending (including USDA) for all of FY2008. It also

¹ In this context the word mandatory does not relate to participation in the programs. In all cases, program participation is voluntary.

² Crop insurance is an important farm program, with mandatory funding, that does not depend on periodic renewal through farm bills because it is authorized by its own permanent law.

extends the authority for many expiring programs until March 15, 2008. The duration of the extension is expected to be sufficient for conference negotiations to resolve differences between the House- and Senate-passed farm bills (H.R. 2419).

Commodity Support Programs³

The mandatory commodity support programs authorized in the 2002 farm bill cover the 2007 crops. So, all subsidy obligations related to 2007 crop production are covered by the law, even if spending occurs in FY2008. For commodity support programs, there was little reason to enact a farm bill before the end of calendar year 2007. In fact, past farm bills generally have been enacted late in the year, after the end of the fiscal year. The 1981 and 1985 farm bills were enacted in late December, and the 1990 farm bill was enacted in late November. What was expected to be the 1995 farm bill was not enacted until April 4, 1996, the most extreme case of belated action. Even in that case payments were made on the 1995 crops and farmers went ahead with planting operations for their 1996 crops.⁴

Policy officials and the agriculture community expected a 2007 farm bill to be enacted before the end of calendar year 2007. However, lack of new commodity support legislation before harvest in 2008 does little harm other than leaving producers of “covered commodities” uncertain about the size of payments they might receive.⁵ This uncertainty about future policy could affect some farmers’ ability to acquire production loans from commercial lenders. Even if Congress deems a temporary extension necessary for the commodity support programs beyond the 2007 crop year, that action likely could wait until early spring 2008.⁶

Possible Reversion to Permanent Law. If Congress takes no additional action on commodity support before the beginning of the 2008 harvest, then the non-expiring provisions of primarily the Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1938 and the Agriculture Act of 1949 take effect. Provisions of these permanent laws are

³ This section on commodity support programs was prepared with assistance from Jennifer Staman, Legal Analyst, CRS.

⁴ The situation surrounding delayed enactment of a 1995 farm bill until 1996 was complicated by several factors. First, some support provisions for some commodities had been extended through 1997 by budget savings action taken in the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-66, Sections 1101-1111). Second, a 1995 farm bill was included in a large budget reconciliation package (H.R. 2491) that was vetoed on December 6, 1995, by President Clinton.

⁵ Under the 2002 farm bill, farmers receiving direct payments have the option of receiving them in the calendar year prior to the applicable crop year. This provision allows farmers to possibly achieve tax savings. The delay of the farm bill until 2008 precludes the possibility of farmers receiving 2008 direct payments in calendar 2007.

⁶ Milk is a commodity that required attention before the end of 2007, because the dairy price support program was scheduled to expire on December 31, 2007. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161) temporarily extended program authority until March 15, 2008. Without an extension, program authority would have reverted to permanent law, whereby the government would have been obligated to purchase surplus cheese, nonfat dry milk, and butter at prices substantially higher than current support prices.

temporarily superseded by each farm bill. So, absent any amendments before the 2008 harvest, the permanent authority will apply. However, the commodity support provisions of the permanent law are so radically different from current policy and inconsistent with today's farming, marketing, and trade practices, as well as costly to the federal government, that Congress is unlikely to let permanent law take effect.

Permanent law provides mandatory support for basic crops through nonrecourse loans, but without the option of settling the loan obligations at posted county prices or receiving loan deficiency payments. The only settlement options would be forfeiture of the commodities used as loan collateral or full repayment of the loans. Permanent law does not authorize counter-cyclical payments or decoupled direct payments. Also, nonrecourse loan rates could be as high as 90% of parity but not less than 50% of parity for corn, wheat, and rice, and 65% of parity for cotton.⁷ Acreage allotments and marketing quotas could be implemented for wheat and cotton. Milk support would be between 75% and 90% of parity. Support for soybeans, other oilseeds, and peanuts would not be mandatory. Other commodities now receiving mandatory support but not identified in permanent law are: sugar beets, sugar cane, honey, wool, mohair, small chickpeas, dry peas, and lentils.

For wheat and cotton, permanent law requires the Secretary of Agriculture to announce acreage allotments and marketing quotas during the prior crop year, and to hold producer referenda on whether to implement marketing quotas. A two-thirds or more affirmative producer vote for marketing quotas results in the highest levels of support, but also mandatory restrictions on planted acreage and therefore on the quantity eligible for support. For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed the Secretary does not have time to announce marketing quotas and to conduct the producer referenda. Therefore, the only option may be to announce acreage allotments without marketing quotas prior to the 2008 harvest.⁸ **Table 1** summarizes the support estimates based on these assumptions.

As shown in **Table 1**, not all commodities currently receiving federal support would be covered by mandatory provisions in permanent law. The commodities losing mandatory support include peanuts, honey, wool, mohair, sugar beets and sugar cane, soybeans and other oilseeds, dry peas, lentils, and small chick peas. Any and all of these commodities could receive support under discretionary authority given the Secretary of Agriculture in the Agriculture Act of 1949 and the CCC Charter Act. For budgetary and other reasons, that discretionary authority has been seldom used and is unlikely to be applied in 2008. Important to this supposition is

⁷ Parity is a formula that gives a unit of the commodity the same purchasing power it had in the 1910-1914 time period. For example, the November 2007 average farm price for wheat was reported by USDA at \$7.92/bu. (71% of its \$11.10 parity price). Similarly, the average farm price for upland cotton of \$0.540/lb. was 26% of parity; and the average farm price for manufacturing grade milk of \$20.20/cwt. (a near record high) was 54% of parity. (Prices received by farmers and parity prices are reported monthly by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service report, *Agricultural Prices*.)

⁸ In fact, USDA issued press releases on April 5, 2007 (FSA News Release No. 1439.07), and September 25, 2007 (FSA News Release No. 1526.07), stating there would be no national acreage allotments or marketing quotas for, respectively, crop year 2008 wheat and cotton under the 1938 Act.

the fact that, with few exceptions, market prices for agricultural commodities are high and there would be little economic justification for federal support to be implemented.

Table 1. Average Prices Received and Parity Prices for Farm Products, and Support Provisions Under Permanent Law

Commodity and Unit	Farm Market Price, Nov 2007 ^a	Parity Price, Nov 2007 ^b	Farm Price as % of Parity, Nov 2007	Minimum Support Provisions Under Permanent Law (Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 and Agricultural Act of 1949) ^c	Minimum Loan / Purchase Price Under Permanent Law
Basic Commodities					
Wheat, Bu	\$7.92	\$11.10	71%	Nonrecourse loans and direct purchases. Acreage allotments. Quotas approved, loan rate = 65%-90% parity. Quotas not approved, loan rate = 50% parity. Quotas not announced, loan rate = 75%-90% of parity.	75% parity = \$8.32
Rice, Cwt	\$11.00	\$30.10	37%	Permanent authority repealed by P.L. 104-127 (Agriculture and Food Act of 1981), Sec 601.	50% parity = \$15.05
Corn, Bu	\$3.49	\$8.24	42%	Nonrecourse loans and direct purchases. Acreage allotments are not authorized. Loan rate = 50%-90% of parity.	50% parity = \$4.125
Sorghum, Bu	\$6.22	\$7.90	44%	Support set in relation to feed value (TDN) compared to corn (sorghum =95%, barley=90%, oats=90%)	\$3.75
Barley, Bu	\$4.69	\$7.77	60%		\$2.99
Oats, Bu	\$2.35	\$4.62	51%		\$1.18
Cotton, Upland, Lb	\$0.540	\$2.10	26%	Nonrecourse loans and direct purchases. Acreage allotments. Quotas approve, loan rate = 65%-90% parity. Quotas not approved, loan rate = 50% parity. Quotas not announced, loan rate = 65%-90% parity.	\$1.36
Peanuts, Lb	\$0.218	\$0.666	33%	Permanent authority repealed by P.L. 107-171 (Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996), Title I, Subtitle C.	none
Designated Nonbasic Commodities					
Milk, Mfg, Cwt	\$20.20	\$37.60	54%	Purchases of milk and butterfat products at 75%-90% of parity. Direct payments under Milk Income Loss Contracts (MILC)	75% parity = \$28.20 none
Honey, Lb	\$1.04	\$2.64	40%	Permanent authority repealed by P.L. 104-127 (Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996).	none
Wool, Lb	\$0.68	\$1.76	39%	Permanent authority repealed by P.L. 103-130.	none
Mohair, Lb	\$2.78	\$7.71	36%	Permanent authority repealed by P.L. 103-130.	none
Other Nonbasic Commodities					
Sugar, Refined Beet	na	na		Tariff rate quotas continue under authority of chapter 17 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, Additional Note 5.	none
Sugar, Raw Cane	na	na			none

Commodity and Unit	Farm Market Price, Nov 2007 ^a	Parity Price, Nov 2007 ^b	Farm Price as % of Parity, Nov 2007	Minimum Support Provisions Under Permanent Law (Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 and Agricultural Act of 1949) ^c	Minimum Loan / Purchase Price Under Permanent Law
Soybeans, Bu	\$9.48	\$18.20	52%	Permanent law includes no mandatory support for these other nonbasic commodities. However, Sec. 301 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, and in the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act give discretionary authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to “make available through loans, purchases, or other operations price support to producers for any nonbasic agricultural commodity ... [not otherwise designated for mandatory support]....”	none
Sunflower Seed, Cwt	\$18.90	\$35.60	53%		none
Rapeseed, Cwt	\$14.90	\$34.10	44%		none
Canola, Cwt	\$19.10	\$29.40	65%		none
Safflower, Cwt	\$13.50	\$39.50	34%		none
Flaxseed, Bu	\$13.20	\$18.10	73%		none
Mustard Seed, Cwt	\$13.70	\$41.20	33%		none
Crambe	na	na	na		none
Sesame Seed	na	na	na		none
Chickpeas, Small, Cwt	\$14.50	na	na		none
Peas, Dry, Cwt	\$13.50	na	na		none
Lentils, Cwt	\$25.90	na	na		none

- a. Average November 2007 price received by farmers as reported by USDA, NASS. November prices not available for all commodities so marketing year 2005 is used for wool; 2006 prices are used for honey, mohair, rapeseed, safflower, and mustard seed; and the October 2007 price is used for small chickpeas.
- b. Reported by USDA, NASS, Agricultural Prices, July 2007. Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle a, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949, and 1956.
- c. An explanation of permanent law is provided by USDA, ERS, *Possible Economic Consequences of Reverting to Permanent Legislation or Eliminating Price and Income Support*, AER 526, January 1985. For purposes of this table it is assumed permanent law is implemented without time to hold producer referenda on national quotas and so mandatory support would be implemented without marketing quotas.

Milk is supported currently and in permanent law through the offer of USDA to purchase manufactured dairy products (nonfat dry milk, cheddar cheese, and butter) at prices equivalent to the mandated support price for manufacturing grade milk. Under permanent law those purchase prices (based on July 2007 data) would be about three times as high a currently mandated and nearly 50% higher than market prices. Such high USDA purchase prices could result in the government outbidding commercial markets for a sizeable share of processor output. Under the 2002 farm bill, permanent law would have taken effect on January 1, 2008. However, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161) extended the dairy price support program through March 15, 2008.

Under permanent law, nonrecourse loan rates for wheat, corn, and other feed grains, and cotton function as USDA purchase prices. Unless commercial markets pay more than the nonrecourse loan prices, farmers simply put their crops under loan and forfeit the commodities to USDA when the nine-month loans come due. Thus loan prices effectively are government purchase prices. When market prices are lower than the nonrecourse loan rates commercial buyers have to raise their prices to outbid the USDA to acquire wheat, feed grains, and cotton. These crop subsidy programs were not extended beyond the 2007 crop year by P.L. 110-161.

Conservation Programs⁹

Many of the USDA conservation programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) deal with evaluating the causes and severity of resource problems, developing physical and management systems to address the problems, and providing technical and financial assistance to farmers implementing preventive and remedial practices. The cost of these programs largely relates to agency personnel who provide specialized technical training, cost-sharing with farmers, and administrative overhead. Most of these programs are permanently authorized and current law instructs the appropriations committees to provide such sums as necessary to meet program needs. Thus, there is no constraint on appropriators in future years. As with most appropriated (discretionary) programs, funding depends heavily on budget requests from the administering executive agency. So, the future of these programs, short of a change in the permanent authorizing law, largely is in the hands of the appropriators. These programs are listed at the top of **Table 2**.

The Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198) and subsequent amendments have become the legal foundation for another set of programs that now account for almost 80% of USDA conservation spending and dramatically changed the use of a sizable share of the nation's cropland. Most of these programs are administered by NRCS, while the largest (the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)) is administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), with support from NRCS. The original authorizing legislation expired in 1990, but has been extended and amended by periodic farm bills. Many of these programs were last extended by the 2002 farm bill and most of the programs expired September 30, 2007. However, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161) extended these programs to March 15, 2008. Expiration likely would have meant that no new contracts could be signed with farmers. All existing contracts have stayed in force for their specified lives, and payments continue to be made on the existing contracts. Three mandatory conservation programs are funded at specific levels by P.L. 110-161 through March 15, 2008 — the Farmland Protection Program (\$97 million), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (\$85 million), and the Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program (\$60 million). The mandatory conservation programs are listed in the bottom half of **Table 2**, with their current expiration dates.

Nutrition Programs¹⁰

Programs covered by the nutrition title present a set of expiration issues that differ from those posed by programs in other farm bill titles. The regular Food Stamp program, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and fresh fruit and vegetable projects are authorized in permanent law. Funding for these programs will continue through September 30, 2008, under appropriations provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161).

⁹ This section on conservation programs was prepared with assistance from Jeff Zinn, Specialist in Natural Resources Policy, CRS.

¹⁰ This section on nutrition programs was prepared with assistance from Joe Richardson, Specialist in Domestic Social Policy, CRS.

Table 2. Conservation Program Authorization and Funding

Permanently Authorized and Funded with Annual Appropriations^a	
Program	Expiration of Appropriations Authority
Conservation Technical Assistance	No expiration date (n.e.d.)
Soil Surveys	(n.e.d.)
Watershed Planning and Surveys	(n.e.d.)
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	(n.e.d.)
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	March 15, 2008 ^c
Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)	(n.e.d.)
Agricultural Management Assistance Program	(n.e.d.)
Emergency Watershed Program	(n.e.d.)
Emergency Conservation Program	(n.e.d.)
Programs with Mandatory Funding^b	
Program	Expiration of Program Authority
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	March 15, 2008 ^c
Farmland Protection Program (FPP)	March 15, 2008 ^c
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	March 15, 2008 ^c
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	March 15, 2008 ^c
Ground and Surface Water Program	March 15, 2008 ^c
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	March 15, 2008 ^c
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	March 15, 2008 ^c
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Sept. 30, 2010 ^d
Conservation Security Program (CSP)	Sept. 30, 2011 ^d
Agricultural Management Assistance	(n.e.d.)

- a. With the exception of the Watershed Rehabilitation Program (authorized at \$85 million in FY2007), these programs all are authorized to indefinitely receive appropriations of such sums as necessary.
- b. With one exception, these programs were initially authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198), or amendments to that act. The Watershed Rehabilitation program was initially authorized by amendment to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 106-472). All of these programs were extended through FY2007 by the 2002 farm bill.
- c. Each of these conservation programs expired on September 30, 2007, under their 2002 farm bill program authority. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161) extended these programs temporarily until March 15, 2008.
- d. Subsequent to the 2002 farm bill, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171) authorized the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through FY2010, and the Conservation Security Program (CSP) through FY2011.

On the other hand, operation of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), along with a number of special authorities and requirements incorporated in the Food Stamp Act and the law governing the CSFP, would be affected without additional action.

All of the following would expire March 15, 2008:

- mandatory funding from permanent appropriations (\$15 million per year) for the SFMNP;
- the directive to use food stamp appropriations to purchase commodities (\$140 million) "guaranteed" for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP);
- the directive to fund nutrition assistance block grants (in lieu of food stamps) for Puerto Rico and American Samoa (\$1.6 billion);
- the requirement to reserve a portion of food stamp appropriations for employment/training programs (\$110 million)
- the authority to reduce (by \$200 million) food stamp administrative cost payments to states; and
- the requirement for minimum per-case administrative cost payments under the CSFP.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition program, and child nutrition programs (e.g., school lunch and breakfast programs) are reauthorized separately from the farm bill. Thus, their design and funding would not be affected by a delay in enacting a farm bill.

Rural Development Programs¹¹

Most rural development loan and grant programs are authorized through permanent law and funded through annual appropriations, which were received for FY2008 in the Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-161). However, several mandatory rural development programs were newly authorized or extended by the 2002 farm bill. These programs expired on September 30, 2007, and were not included in the March 15, 2008, extension in P.L. 110-161:

- Enhanced Rural Access to Broadband Technology Program;
- Value-Added Product Development Grants Program;
- Renewable and Alternative Energy Systems Grant Program.

¹¹ This section on rural development programs was prepared with assistance from Tadlock Cowan, Analyst in Natural Resources Policy, CRS.

Historical Farm Bill Chronology of Major Actions

1973 Farm Bill. P.L. 93-86 (S. 1888), an original bill to extend and amend the Agricultural Act of 1970 for the purpose of assuring consumers of plentiful supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices

Summary of Major Actions

Introduced May 23, 1973.

Enacted August 10, 1973.

Expiration:

- Appropriations authorities expire June 30, 1977.
- Commodity support authorities expire after the 1977 crop year.

Chronology of Major Actions

05/23/1973 — S. 1888 introduced in Senate

05/23/1973 — S. 1888 reported to Senate, S.Rept. 93-173.

06/08/1973 — S. 1888 passed by roll call vote (78-9).

06/20/1973 — H.R. 8860 introduced in House

06/27/1973 — H.R. 8860 reported to House, H.Rept. 93-337.

07/19/1973 — H.R. 8860 laid on table in House, S. 1888 passed in lieu.

08/10/1973 — Signed by President.

1977 Farm Bill. — P.L. 95-113 (S. 275), Food and Agriculture Act of 1977

Summary of Major Actions

Introduced January 18, 1977.

Enacted September 29, 1977.

Expiration:

- Appropriations authorities expire September 30, 1981.
- Commodity support authorities expire after the 1981 crop year.

Chronology of Major Actions

01/18/1977 — S. 275 introduced in Senate.

05/13/1977 — H.R. 7171 introduced in House.

05/16/1977 — Reported to Senate, S.Rept. 95-180.

05/16/1977 — H.R. 7171 reported from the House Ag. Committee, H.Rept. 95-348.

05/24/1977 — Passed Senate by roll call, 69-18.

07/28/1977 — Passed House in lieu of H.R. 7171 by roll call, 294-114.

09/09/1977 — Conference report S.Rept. 95-418 agreed to 9/12/1977 by roll call, 63-8.

09/16/1977 — Conference report agreed to in House by roll call, 283-107.

09/29/1977 — Signed by President.

1981 Farm Bill. P.L. 97-98 (S. 884), Agriculture and Food Act of 1981

Summary of Major Actions

Introduced April 7, 1981.

Enacted December 22, 1981.

Expiration:

- Appropriations authorities expire September 30, 1985.
- Commodity support authorities expire after the 1985 crop year.

Chronology of Major Actions

04/07/1981 — S. 884 introduced in Senate.

05/18/1981 — H.R. 3603 introduced in House.

05/19/1981 — Reported by House Ag. Committee, H.Rept. 97-106, Part I. Reported by House Committee on Appropriations 6/11/1981, H.Rept. 97-106, Part II. Reported by House Committee on Ways and Means on 6/19/1981, H.Rept. 97-106, Part III. Discharged by House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs on 6/19/1981.

05/27/1981 — S. 884 reported by Senate Ag. Committee under the authority of the order of May 21, 1981, with written report S.Rept. 97-126.

09/18/1981 — Passed Senate by yeas-nays, 49-32.

10/22/1981 — Passed House by yeas-nays, 192-160.

12/09/1981 — Conference Report H.Rept. 97-377 filed in House.

12/10/1981 — Conference report agreed to in Senate by yeas-nays, 67-32.

12/10/1981 — Conference report S.Rept. 97-290 filed in Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House.

12/16/1981 — Conference report agreed to in House by yeas-nays, 205-203.

12/22/1981 — Signed by President.

1985 Farm Bill. P.L. 99-198 (H.R. 2100), Food Security Act of 1985

Summary of Major Actions

Introduced April 17, 1985.

Enacted December 23, 1985.

Expiration:

- Appropriations authorities expire September 30, 1990.
- Commodity support authorities expire after the 1990 crop year.

Chronology of Major Actions

04/17/1985 — H.R. 2100 introduced in House.

09/13/1985 — Reported to House by House Ag. Committee, H.Rept. 99-271, Part I; and reported to House by House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on 9/19/1985, H.Rept. 99-271, Part II.

09/19/1985 — Senate Ag. Committee incorporated provisions of related measures S. 501, S. 616, S. 843, S. 908, S. 1036, S. 1041, S. 1051, S. 1083, S. 1119, S. 42, S. 171, S. 1040, S. 1049, S. 1050, S. 250, S. 1069 into a single measure that was ordered to be reported.

09/30/1985 — S. 1714 introduced in Senate and reported to Senate with written report S.Rept. 99-145.

10/08/1985 — H.R. 2100 passed House by yeas-nays, 282-141.

11/23/1985 — H.R. 2100 passed Senate in lieu of S. 1714 by yeas-nays, 61-28.

12/17/1985 — Conference Report H.Rept. 99-447 filed in House and agreed to in House on
12/18/1985 by yeas-nays, 325-96; and agreed to in Senate by yeas-nays, 55-38.
12/23/1985 — Signed by President.

1990 Farm Bill. P.L. 101-624 (S. 2830), Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade
Act of 1990

Summary of Major Actions

Introduced July 6, 1990.

Enacted November 28, 1990.

Expiration:

- Appropriations authorities expire September 30, 1995.
- Commodity support authorities expire after the 1995 crop year.
- As a budget savings action, some support provisions for several commodities were reduced and extended beyond 1995 by P.L. 103-66 (Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993). Support for milk was extended through 1996. Some provisions affecting cotton, wheat, feedgrains, rice, peanuts, wool, and mohair were extended through 1997. Support for honey was extended through 1998.

Chronology of Major Actions

02/05/1990 — H.R. 3950 introduced in House.

7/3/1990 — H.R. 3950 reported by the House Ag. Committee with H.Rept. 101-569, Part I. Reported 7/16/1990 by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, H.Rept. 101-569, Part II. Supplemental report filed 7/17/1990 by the House Ag. Committee, H.Rept. 101-569, Part III. Reported 7/18/1990 by the Committee on Education and Labor, H.Rept. 101-569, Part IV. Reported 7/18/1990 by the Committee on Ways and Means, H.Rept. 101-569, Part V, filed late, pursuant to previous special order. Discharged 7/18/1990 by the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

07/06/1990 — S. 2830 introduced in Senate.

07/06/1990 — S. 2830 reported to Senate under the authority of the order of June 26, 1990, with written report S.Rept. 101-357.

07/27/1990 — S. 2830 passed Senate by yeas-nays, 70-21.

8/1/1990 — H.R. 3950 passed House by recorded vote, 327-91.

08/04/1990 — S. 2830 passed in House without objection.

10/22/1990 — Conference report H.Rept. 101-916 filed.

10/23/1990 — Conference report agreed to in House by yeas-nays, 318-102.

10/25/1990 — Conference report agreed to in Senate by yeas-nays, 60-36.

11/28/1990 — Signed by President.

1996 Farm Bill. P.L.104-127 (H.R. 2854), Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996

Summary of Major Actions

Introduced January 5, 1996.

Enacted April 4, 1996.

Expiration:

- Appropriations authorities expires September 30, 2002.
- Commodity support authority expires after the 2002 crop year.

Chronology of Major Actions

08/04/1995 — H.R. 2195 introduced in House.

09/20/1995 — H.R. 2195 marked up by House Ag Committee and voted down.

09/28/1995 — Senate Ag Committee completed markup and approved unnumbered farm bill.

10/26/1995 — H.R. 2195 included in H.R. 2491, Balanced Budget Act of 1985. H.R. 2491 approved by House on 10/26.

10/28/1995 — Senate Ag Committee farm bill approved as part of the Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995 (S. 1357), which was incorporated in H.R. 2491 and approved.

12/06/1995 — H.R. 2491 was vetoed by the President.

01/05/1996 — H.R. 2854 introduced in House.

01/26/1996 — S. 1541 introduced in Senate.

02/07/1996 — S. 1541 passed Senate by yeas-nays, 64-32.

02/09/1996 — H.R. 2854 reported by House Ag. Committee with H.Rept. 104-462, Part I, and discharged on 2/9/1996 by Committee on Ways and Means.

02/29/1996 — H.R. 2854 passed House by yeas-nays, 270-155.

03/12/1996 — H.R. 2854 passed Senate by voice vote.

03/25/1996 — Conference report H.Rept. 104-494 filed.

03/28/1996 — Conference report agreed to in Senate by yeas-nays, 74-26.

03/29/1996 — Conference report agreed to in House by recorded vote, 318-89.

04/04/1996 — Signed by President.

2002 Farm Bill. P.L. 107-171 (H.R. 2646), Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

Summary of Major Actions

Introduced July 26, 2001.

Enacted May 13, 2002. Provisions applied to 2002 crops, superseding the unexpired provisions of the 1996 farm bill.

Expiration:

- Appropriations authorities expire September 30, 2007.
- Commodity support authorities expire after the 2007 crop year.

Chronology of Major Actions

07/26/2001 — H.R. 2646 introduced in House.

08/02/2001 — H.R. 2646 reported by House Ag. Committee, H.Rept. 107-191, Part I. Supplemental report filed 8/31/2001 by House Ag. Committee, H.Rept. 107-191, Part II. Reported by the Committee on International Relations 9/10/2001, H.Rept. 107-191, Part III.

10/05/2001 — Passed in House by yeas-nays, 291-120.

11/27/2001 — S. 1731 introduced in Senate and reported to Senate by the Senate Ag. Committee without a written report. S.Rept. 107-117 was filed on 12/7/2001.
02/13/2002 — Passed in Senate in lieu of S. 1731 by yeas-nays, 58-40.
05/01/2002 — Conference report H.Rept. 107-424 filed.
05/02/2002 — Conference report agreed to in House by yeas-nays, 280-141.
05/08/2002 — Conference report agreed to in Senate by yeas-nays, 64-35.
05/13/2002 — Signed by President.