

Farm Bill Conservation Funding



Revised June 2010

The conservation programs in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) provide critical assistance to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to address local natural resource issues. Benefits of these programs include: improved water quality, soil health and habitat, as well as practices proven to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change. Congress approved increased levels of mandatory spending in the 2008 Farm Bill for conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). NACD opposes efforts to reduce the spending levels for these important conservation programs below the mandatory spending levels approved under the 2008 Farm Bill.

Farm Bill conservation programs provide technical assistance to help private landowners and managers install and maintain conservation practices. Technical assistance allows conservation practices to be tailored to landowners' specific crop production, soil type, water resources and habitat needs. Farm Bill programs also help producers take environmentally-sensitive land out of production, provide cost-share funds for structural improvements in farming and ranching operations and create incentives to undertake new management practices.

The Obama Administration's proposed FY2011 budget includes more than \$500 million in short-term cuts, in addition to long-term permanent cuts for mandatory conservation programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Congress worked hard to pass the bipartisan 2008 Farm Bill and its programs should be given an opportunity to work.

Conservation Program	2008 Farm Bill Mandatory Spending Level FY2011	President's FY2011 Proposed Cut
WRP	3,041 million acres over 5 years	Permanent cut of 57,018 acres
EQIP	\$1.588 billion	\$380 million
FRPP	\$175 million	\$15 million
Agricultural Management Assistance	\$15 million	\$5 million
WHIP	\$85 million	\$12 million

The NACD urges Congress to maintain the mandatory conservation funding levels as agreed to in the 2008 Farm Bill.

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