

Summary: The [Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008](#) is expected to expend [\\$307 billion during 2008-2012](#) with 68% allocated for nutrition programs, 11.4% for commodity programs, 8.1% for conservation, and 12.5% for other purposes including credit, trade, specialty crops, and disaster assistance. The Conference Report creates a farm bill with 14 titles, including ones for Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, Livestock, Crop Insurance and Disaster Assistance, and Commodity Futures. The priorities below refer to the [Farm and Food Policy Project Seeking Balance Report](#) and [Diversity Initiative](#).

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Conservation – Page 11-14*

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Rural Entrepreneurship – Page 10-11

FFPP PRIORITIES	House Farm Bill (H.R. 2419)	Senate Farm Bill (amendment to H.R. 2419)	Conference Provisions (subject to revision)
I. Renewing American Agriculture			Updated May 23, 2008
<i>Farm Bill titles: Commodity, Credit, Rural Development, Research, Horticulture*, Livestock**, Miscellaneous</i>	Overview: No structural change to Commodity programs or competition-related laws; increased support for new farmers, farmers markets, value-added, organic	Overview: Extends Commodity programs; introduces new, optional Average Crop Revenue (ACR) program; includes Specialty Crop provisions	Overview: Extends Commodity Programs, new ACRE revenue protection, some payment limits, increases subsidy payment maximums
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (see also Diversity Initiative section V.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15 million a year mandatory (authorized but not funded in last Farm Bill). Sec. 11204 • Language includes a 25% set aside for SDFRs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorized with discretionary funding at \$30million annually. Section 7305. • Language includes a 25% set aside for SDFRs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$75 million mandatory over 4 years, first-time mandatory funding for competitive grants to fund education, extension, outreach, and assistance to foster new farming opportunities. Additional \$30 million in annual discretionary authority. • Manager's Statement indicates immigrant farmers should be eligible (page 307) • Section 7410.
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Credit Provisions (see also Diversity Initiative section V.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BFR loan set-aside • Down Payment Loan Program and Contract Land Sales Program improved and expanded. Sec. 5003. • No increase in loan authorization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BFR loan set-aside (same as House) • Down Payment Loan Program and Contract Land Sales Program same as House but with higher interest rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority to SDFR/BFR in credit programs • Down Payment Loan - Lower interest rates, better lending terms, and higher maximum purchase price on first time

Abbreviations:

BFR – Beginning Farmer or Rancher

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<p>FFPP PRIORITIES</p>	<p>House Farm Bill (H.R. 2419)</p>	<p>Senate Farm Bill (amendment to H.R. 2419)</p>	<p>Conference Provisions (subject to revision)</p>
<p>Farmers Market Promotion Program / EBT</p>	<p>levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Individual Development Account pilot program • Conservation Loan priority for BFR, SDFR, and organic, but also eliminates direct loans). Sec. 5001 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan authorization levels increased • Individual Development Account pilot program authorized at \$10 million annually • Conservation Loan priority for BFR, SDFR, and organic (same as House), but priority in EQIP for loan applicants 	<p>land purchases, plus an expansion to cover SDFRSs. Section 5004.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Development Accounts - 15-state pilot; \$5 million annual discretionary authority. Section 5301. • Loan authorization – Increases in per farm loan limits from \$200,000 to \$300,000, and an increase in the authorization for appropriations for annual lending funds to \$350 million and \$850 million for direct farm ownership (real estate) and direct operating loans, respectively. Section 5303. • Conservation Loan priority for BFR, SDFR, and organic. Section 5002. • New USDA office of Advocacy and Outreach created to ensure access to BFR, SDFR, and small farmers to Dept. programs. Section 14013.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory funding at \$35 million over five years, with \$5m annually FY08-010 and \$10m annually FY11-12; not less than 10% for EBT. Sec. 10403. • Renamed "FMAP" (Farmer Marketing Assistance Program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory funding at \$30 million over five years (\$5m annually in FY08-FY11, \$10million in FY12). Sec. 1812. • EBT addressed in Nutrition title with \$5 million available one-time for grants to states or NGO-government partnerships to train markets to accept EBT and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$33 million over 5 years, first-time mandatory funding that is nearly a seven-fold increase above the program's current appropriated level for competitive grants that farmer-to-consumer direct marketing, including farmers' markets, CSAs, and on-farm consumer

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FFPP PRIORITIES	House Farm Bill (H.R. 2419)	Senate Farm Bill (amendment to H.R. 2419) provide equipment. (no mention of wireless technology). Sec. 4210.	Conference Provisions (subject to revision) sales. • 10% set-aside for EBT implementation projects. • Report language for USDA to identify more systemic approaches to EBT implementation. • Annual funding: FY08: \$3M; FY09 & FY10: \$5M; FY11 & FY12: \$10M. Section 10106.
Organic Conversion	\$50M for organic transition until expended discretionary; allows farmers \$10,000 per year for up to 3 years. Sec. 10303	• Included as part of EQIP, capped at \$80,000 per farmer. Section 2360	• Included as part of EQIP, financial assistance. • Capped at \$80,000 per farmer over a six year period. • Money for Technical Assistance not included in cap. • Section 2501. Section 2501(c) (under 1240B(i)).
Value Added Producer Grant Program	\$30 million annual mandatory; focus on small and medium-sized farms; 10% set aside for value chain networks; 10% set aside for beginning and minority farmers. Section 6027.	• Discretionary funding only • Language nearly same as House, except priority for BFR, SDFR and small operations; more focus on local food systems and less on value chain development • Priority, no set-aside for SDFRs. Section 6401.	• Continues the program with \$15 million in mandatory funds total. • Most funding authority shifted to discretionary, of up to \$40M annually. • Priorities for project that increase opportunities for BFRS and SDFRs at 10% of total funding, small and mid- sized operations (no funding set-aside), and mid-tier value- chain development at 10% of total funding. • Section 6202.

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FFPP PRIORITIES	House Farm Bill (H.R. 2419)	Senate Farm Bill (amendment to H.R. 2419)	Conference Provisions (subject to revision)
Improve enforceability of competitive markets (not core FFPP priority)	Minor changes on arbitration rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entire Livestock section in Title X, includes a Special Counsel on Ag. Competition; stronger Packer/Stockyard enforcement including definition of "livestock ownership"; does not require mandatory arbitration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Livestock Title XI Allows producers to accept arbitration voluntarily. Allows disputes to be settled in a producer's judicial district; allows producer cancellation after 3 days; other contract reforms. Section 11005. Regulatory changes for undue price preferences (Section 11001) and annual reporting on USDA compliance with Packers and Stockyards Act
Interstate shipment of state inspected meat (not core FFPP priority)	Allows meat certified by state inspections which are "identical" to the federal inspection regime to be shipped across state lines. Sec. 11103.	Allows small (<25 employees) state-inspected plants to sell interstate under federal laws if "at least equal to" federal standards; creates pathway for medium (25-34 employees) plants to transition to federal inspection. Sec. 11067	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopts Senate language, to allow small (<25 employees) state-inspected plants to sell interstate under federal laws; creates pathway for medium (25-34 employees) plants to transition to federal inspection. Processors must be in compliance with State regulations and "selected" by USDA to ship interstate. Section 11015.
Payment limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1M Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) cap to receive payments, above \$500K AGI requires 66% of income to be from farming for payment eligibility Uncaps marketing loans Direct payment cap increased from \$40K to \$60K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGI cap: for FY09 \$1million/year unless 66.66% of income comes from farming; for FY10 onward AGI cap of \$750,000 unless more than 66.66% of income comes from farming (applies to DP, CCP, ML, LDP, Title 2, Title 7 programs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGI cap changes: 3-year average non-farm income must not exceed \$500K/per farmer for program eligibility; 3-year average farm income must not exceed \$750K/per farmer for direct payment eligibility <i>only</i>. Repeal of "three entity" rule

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<p>National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (and other not FFPP core priority organic programs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic cost-share - \$22 million mandatory over five years (Increase from \$5 million in last Farm Bill). Sec. 10301 • Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) up from \$3 million. (Note: Additional \$5 million a year to, additionally OREI received discretionary \$25 million) . Sec. 7310 • Organic Data Initiative receives \$3 million over life of Farm Bill • \$1 million set-aside a year for cost-share in Agricultural Management Assistance program continues, same as last Farm Bill.) Sec. 10302 • Sense of congress on organic research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncaps Marketing Loans • Direct payment limit \$40,000/year • Counter cyclical \$60,000/year • Conservation program cap at \$450,000; AGI cap of \$2.5million/year unless 66.66% of income is from farming • Removes three-entity rule and requires direct attribution • Organic Cost-share – same as House. Sec. 1823 • Organic Research and Extension - \$16million annually (\$80m over five), up \$3m total from last farm bill. Sec. 7104 • Organic Data Collection - \$5million (one-time). Sec. 1821 • insurance premiums unless supported by real data • Organic Crop Insurance Issue – disallows higher than average 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct attribution of payments • Uncaps payments for Loan deficiency payments • Maintains current payment caps on the Counter-cyclical program (\$65K/year/per farmer) and Direct Payments (\$40K/year/per farmer) • Conservation AGI: no limit on eligibility if 2/3 of income from farming; no eligibility if all income exceeds \$1M/per farmer • Organic Cost-share - \$22M mandatory 5 years, five-fold increase; max. payment of \$750. Section 10301. • OREI - \$78M mandatory over 5 years, five-fold increase, and \$25M in annual discretionary authority. Section 7206. • Organic Data collection - \$5M mandatory over 5 years, plus \$5M annual discretionary authority. Section 10302. • Organic Crop insurance – sets in motion administrative changes to end the 5% surcharge on premiums that organic producers are required to pay, and allow for organic producers to receive the organic price for their crop

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			instead of the conventional rate when they suffer a loss. Section 12023.
Average Crop Revenue program (not FFPP core priority)	Included in a minimal form	Included for FY 10-12; produced significant budgetary savings . (begins sec. 1401)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) - implementation in 2009; triggered when a farm experiences a real loss, reduces direct and marketing loan payments for participants; reduces overall subsidy expenditures. Section 1105.

II. Healthy Food and Communities			Updated May 15, 2008
<i>Farm Bill titles: Nutrition, Rural Development, Horticulture*, Miscellaneous</i>	Overview: Increased Nutrition program funding by \$4.2B over five years (max benefit \$145/month); language included for school food procurement and food deserts	Overview: Increases Nutrition funding by \$4.3B, however distributes funding differently (Food Stamp max at \$140/month and increases school snack program above House levels).	Overview: Renames food Stamps to “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program” (SNAP), funding increased by more than \$3.1B over five years, indexes SNAP to inflation, funds school snack program, continues community food projects.
Community Food Projects	Reauthorized as discretionary at \$30 million for FY08-12; removed mandatory funding; expanded purposes. Sec. 4027.	Mandatory funding of \$10 million annually for FY08-12. Sec. 4801.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retains its previous funding level of \$5 million annually. • Section 4402(1) has a new definition of “Community Food Project” • Section 4406(a)(7) funds the program through fiscal year 2008 and each year after.

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<p>Geographical Preference/Local Procurement</p>	<p>Clarifies that the Secretary shall encourage institutions receiving funds under the National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act to purchase locally produced foods to the maximum extent possible, including the use of geographic preference for the procurement of locally produced foods. Sec. 4304.</p>	<p>Small, but significant differences from House version. Sec. 4902.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows local schools the flexibility to specify “local” as a bid requirement in purchasing foods for school meals with school meal program funds. Section 4302 • Includes all food products: fruits, vegetables, dairy, meats, etc. (Specified in manager’s statement page 107.)
<p>“Locally Produced Agricultural Products” inclusion in Loan & Loan Guarantee Program</p>	<p>Priority in Rural Business and Industries Loan and Loan Guarantee program for local/regional processing & distribution. Sec. 6017.</p>	<p>More substantial language, with expanded purposes, including undeserved community definition and allowance of up to \$250,000 per project for use in urban areas. Sec. 6017.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a priority for entities involved in local food distribution and marketing to receive USDA loan guarantees (up to 90% guarantee rate) through the Rural Business and Industries Loan and Loan Guarantee program. • Includes a set-aside of 5% of annual funds (approx. \$50 million annually in loan guarantees at the current funding level). • The applicant must be in a USDA designated “rural” area. • Includes a definition of “locally or regionally produced food.” • Section 6015.
<p>Local Food Systems Study (new)</p>	<p>Not included</p>	<p>Provides for case studies and report to establish a working definition of local food systems and assess key indicators including market share, gaps in processing, marketing, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not included. • Manager’s statement language refers to ERS report already being conducted on this sector. • Manager’s Statement page 325.

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		distribution, and nutrition, community, energy, and environmental impacts; establishes a collaborative study team with membership from USDA, EPA, higher education institutions, farmers, and NGOs. Sec. 11089	
Healthy Food Enterprise Development program	The Secretary, through AMS, shall establish a program to provide information and grants up to \$250,000 each to entities to conduct feasibility studies for projects that target participation by socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, increase employment opportunities in underserved communities and support small and mid-sized farm opportunities in underserved communities. Sec. 10405	The Secretary, through AMS, shall establish and support a Healthy Food Enterprise Development Center, at a nonprofit organization, to provide information and sub-grants to increase access to healthy, affordable foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly for school-age children and individuals in low-income communities. Provides \$7 million in mandatory funding (\$0 FY08, \$1 million in FY09, \$2 million in FY10-12). Sec. 1843	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a Center within the Cooperatives State, Education, Extension, and Research Service to provide outreach, technical assistance, and feasibility study grants to support the development of enterprises which distribute and market healthy and locally produced foods to underserved urban, rural, and tribal communities. • Includes a definition of “underserved community” (aka food deserts). • \$3 million mandatory over 3 years, starting in FY09 • Allowed discretionary funding of up to \$2 million in FY12 • Section 4402 (under 2034(a)(2)).
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program	\$15 million a year mandatory remains same, allows additional annual discretionary funding of \$5M in '08 up to \$60M in '12 discretionary . Sec. 4401.	Increased to \$25 million annually in mandatory funds (total new funding \$50 million over five years). Sec. 4701.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded at \$20.6 million annually in mandatory funds, an increase of \$5.6 million annually, which may allow currently unfunded states and tribes to participate, or increase benefits to existing participating

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			<p>entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 4231 includes minor program changes. • Section 4406(c)(1) funds the program for FY08-FY12.
Food “Desert”/ “Access to Nutritious Foods” Study	Sense of Congress regarding food deserts. Sec. 7504.	Requires USDA Secretary to carry out a study of, areas in the U.S. with limited access to affordable and nutritious foods, with particular focus on predominantly lower income neighborhoods and communities. Sec. 7504.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls for a one-year USDA-led study with the Health and Human Services, Small Business Administration, Institute of Medicine, and others to study the incidence of “food deserts” or areas with limited healthy and fresh food retail access and identify strategies which can reduce their incidence. • Requires a \$500,000 discretionary appropriation • Section 7527.
Urban Agriculture	New grant program authorized with discretionary funding	Not Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House provision dropped • Manager’s statement highlights the role of urban gardens and greenhouses within Community Food Projects (page 241)
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (not core FFPP)	Increased from \$9M annually to \$70M mandatory annually for 35 schools per state. Sec. 4303.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased to \$225 million per year (indexed to inflation) Sec. 4904. • 1% of funds go to each state and D.C. funding about 50-60 schools per state/district • Remaining funds distributed by proportion of state population to US population, emphasis on low-income districts (in Nutrition Title) • Funding for 100 ITO schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocates 1% of funding to each state and the District of Columbia, to purchase at least one daily fresh fruit or vegetable snack, with the focus on low-income school districts, with additional funding allocated by relative state population. • Allows schools discretion over food purchases, including local

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			<p>preferences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Need update on ITO schools) • Funded at over \$500 million over five years, FY08 \$40M; FY09 \$65m; FY10 \$101M; FY11 \$150M; and FY12 \$150M and indexes to inflation. • Section 4304.
Other - Food Stamps (not Core FFPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises monthly benefit to \$145 and indexes for inflation • Eligibility changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises monthly benefit to \$140 and indexes for inflation • Eligibility changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises monthly benefit to \$145 and indexes for inflation. Section 4102. • Eligibility changes
Other - (not Core FFPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes a demonstration program “Initiative to Address Obesity Among Low-Income Americans” for obesity reduction pilots. Discretionary \$10m annually. Sec. 4023 • Sense of Congress that school breakfast and lunch program should select foods to reduce the incidence of juvenile obesity and to maximize nutritional value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Projects to evaluate Health and Nutrition Promotion in the Food Stamp Program (\$50 million mandatory). Sec. 4403 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Projects to evaluate Health and Nutrition Promotion in the SNAP, including increased access to farmers’ markets (\$20 million mandatory). Section 4143. • Sense of Congress on school meals deleted. • Section 32 funds directed to purchases of fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts for the school lunch program at \$50 million annually. Section 4404.

III. Rural Entrepreneurship			Updated May 15, 2008
<i>Farm Bill Title: Rural Development, Research</i>	Overview: Few changes, no major funding increases, except for Value Added Producer Grants; reauthorizes ATTRA	Overview: Includes many community provisions, including hospitals and water infrastructure; funding level and programs are still in negotiation	Overview: Reduces Rural Development funding to \$150M mandatory over five years with \$120M allocated in FY08, most funding authorities discretionary
Rural Micro-entrepreneur Assistance Program	\$20 million annually discretionary. Sec. 6013	Funding level at \$40 million annually in mandatory funds with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included and will assist rural entrepreneurs with micro-

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		discretionary authority for additional funds through FY09-FY12. Sec. 7045	financing loans of up to \$50,000. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual mandatory funding levels: FY09-FY11: \$4M; FY12 \$3M. Additional discretionary authority of up to \$40M annually. • Section 6022.
Value-Added Producer Grant Program	(listed in section I)	(listed in section I)	(listed in section I)
ATTRA	New permanent authorization; \$5 million annual discretionary. Sec. 6011	Same as House. Sec. 6018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopts Senate language with minor changes. Section 6016.
Community-based Entrepreneurial Development Program	Not included	Not Included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Included
Rural Entrepreneurship, Education and Enterprise Facilitation Program	Not included	Included in Research Title with discretionary funding authority. Sec. 7045	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not included

IV. Conservation			Updated May 23, 2008
<i>Farm Bill Titles: Conservation, Energy, Credit, Miscellaneous</i>	Overview: Increase Conservation funding, but removes CSP funding; increases renewable energy funding	Overview: Provides \$2B increase in five year budget authority; Creates an overarching program for EQIP and CSP called CSIP; funds CSP; increases renewable energy funding	Overview: Significant funding increase of \$4B mandatory, severely reduced sod-saver protections, change in AGI eligibility limit for producers
Conservation Security Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-funded for FY08-FY12 (reduced by \$703 million over five years) • No new contracts until 2012 Significant program modifications, including greater inclusion of organic practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides \$1.28billion for CSP over ten years, with \$760m of out-year funding moved to FY08-FY12. • Includes provisions to better include and recognize organic agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.1 billion in increased funding and a total of over \$12 billion in mandatory funding for the program over 10 years, which will be sufficient to enroll approximately 115 million acres in CSP by 2017. • Program revised to be

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces minimum priorities of concern in contracts 	<p>nationwide (not limited to particular watersheds), with streamlined provisions and payments structure, higher environmental standards, special outreach for organic producers, special payments for resource-conserving crop rotations, and a continuous sign-up process. Section 2301.</p>
Conservation Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial 'sodsaver' in crop insurance title; removes crop insurance subsidy for four years on newly broken grassland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopts partial "sodsaver" provisions, prohibiting crop insurance payments on native sod conversions and allows 20 acres per field to be exempt from this provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Sodsaver" provisions in both House and Senate versions reduced; devolved authority to Governors to include sodsaver provisions in crop insurance programs; exempts conversions of 5 acres or less. Section 12020. • Graduated penalties and better appeals process to improve enforcement when farmers are in violation of their soil conservation plans on highly erodible land.
Cooperative Conservation Partnerships	<p>Authorized to work within CSP, EQIP, WHIP; max 25% cost-share; 90% of funds allocated to state-level. Sec. 2403</p>	<p>Included as an initiative working across conservation programs; no less than 10% of total conservation funds for this use – 75% allocated to state level, 25% allocated for multi-state projects. Sec. 2405(f)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New mandatory requirement for USDA to reserve 6% of all working lands conservation funding to be delivered through state and local partnerships, including NGOs, focusing on local and innovative solutions to agro-environmental problems. • 90% of funding total will be determined at the state level. • Section 2707.

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<p>Beginning/SDFR (see also Diversity Initiative section V.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% funding set aside for BFR and 5% for SDFR. Sec 2105(h) • EQIP 90% cost-share for BFR/SDFR. Sec. 2105(d) • CRP Transition Program for BFR/SDFR includes \$55million over ten years. 2101(h) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% set-aside of total conservation funding for BFR/SDFR if an individual receives greater than 50% of annual income from agriculture • Cost-share in EQIP allows either 15% above state level or not more than 90% • EQIP allows advance payments up to 30% for BFR/SDFR • Priority for BFR/SDFR in Soil and Water Conservation Loans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-asides BFR and SDFR at 5% each in CSP and EQIP. Section 2704 • 90% cost-share for BFR/SDFR • 30% cost-share advance to BFR/SDFR • Conservation loan priority for BFR/SFR and organic and sustainable practices • CRP transition - \$25 million over 10 years, new program with mandatory funding to encourage owners of CRP land to sell or rent to BFR/SDFRs. Section 2111.
<p>Renewable Energy and Efficiency (2002 Farm Bill Section 9006)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase mandatory funding to \$50m in '08 up to \$150m in '12 (\$500m over five years). Sec. 9005 • Set-aside of 15% off funds to projects less than \$50,000 in size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renamed “Rural Energy for America Program” for \$230m over five years. Section 9007 (look under section 9003) • 15% set aside for animal waste energy • 20% of grants for \$20,000 or less 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$255 mandatory funding over 4 years and \$25 million annual discretionary authorization. • FY09 \$50M; FY10 \$60M; FY11 & FY12 \$70M per year. • 20% annually for projects less than \$20,000 • Section 9001of Report
<p>Other Conservation (not core FFPP priorities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases EQIP from \$1.27B annually, to \$1.5B in '08 to \$2B in '12 (from CSP funds) • Other watershed-based programs authorized (RWEPP). Sec. 2106 • New annual payment limits apply to conservation programs increasing some conservation direct payments limits. Sec. 2409 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQIP funded at baseline • Parts of Regional Watershed Enhancement Program included • Per program payment limit is \$450,000 • Includes new “open fields” recreation access allowance for conservation lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQIP increased by \$3.3B mandatory. Section 2701. • Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program accepted; Manager’s statement specifies some eligible watersheds (Manager’s Statement Page 53) • Payment limitation for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program is reduced

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			<p>from \$450,000 to \$300,000 every six years per farm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments for conservation practices related to organic production included as a purpose of EQIP and national organic conversion program created under EQIP.
<p>Other Conservation (not core FFPP priority)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases funding for the (renamed) Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP). • Makes extensive changes to certification process for states and eligible entities; and USDA program administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reauthorizes FPP at current funding level. • Makes numerous related changes clarifying the roles and responsibilities of eligible entities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland Protection Program – reauthorized and funding increased; \$743 million over five years. Annual mandatory funding – FY08 \$97M; FY09 \$121M; FY10 \$150M; FY11 \$175M; FY12 \$200M. Section 2401. • Establishes a certification process for eligible entities • Restructures program, emphasizes longer term and renewable cooperative agreements, with terms differing by entity type, min. 5 years for certified entities and 3-5 years for others. • Requires an impervious surface requirement in easements, with requirements specified by eligible entities.

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V. Diversity Initiative			Updated May 15, 2008
<i>Farm Bill Titles: Commodity, Conservation, Credit, Miscellaneous*</i>	Overview: Many credit and conservation set-asides; increased USDA reporting requirements; language and funding for Pigford claims	Overview: Many credit and conservation set-asides but different from House in some cases; funding for Pigford claims and Farm worker emergency grants; indicates that some specialty crop block grants should be directed to SDFRs	Overview: Unprecedented inclusion of SDFR issues; conservation set-asides, credit set-asides, increased transparency with USDA operations, funding for Pigford claims, increases for 2501, loss of farmworker grants
Outreach and Assistance for SDFR (2501) Improvements, change to mandatory, increase funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased to \$15 million per year mandatory. Section 11201. Would move program to Office of Outreach. Section 11208 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discretionary funding of \$50 million per year. Section 11052. Would allow USDA to recommend location of program. Section 11052. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides mandatory funding of \$75 million over 4 years for the 2501 Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher Outreach and Technical Assistance Program. Section 14004. Creates new Office of Advocacy and Outreach, which includes the 2501 program. Section 14013.
Transparency and Accountability	Annual compilation of application and participation rate data for SDFR's by State and by County/Parish including all USDA agencies (section 11203), and for the Census and ERS (section 11206).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to House, includes all USDA agencies (Section 11055), including Census and ERS. Section 11056. Requires the Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights to use 10708 data to do compliance reviews Requires reports on complaints and resolution. Section 11065. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopts House version. Section 14006. Annual compilation of application and participation rate data for SDFR's in all USDA programs Authorizes USDA to collect and transmit data on race, gender, and ethnicity Includes Census. Section 14005.
Socially Disadvantaged Producer Initiative	Not included	Not Included	Not Included

Abbreviations:

BFR – Beginning Farmer or Rancher

SDFR – Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher

ITO – Indian Tribal Organization

**DRAFT Checklist of Farm and Food Policy Project Priorities
in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008**

<p>Minority Land Preservation - FRPP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRPP does not include SDFR land ownership as a specific allowed criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRPP included in 10% conservation program set-aside for SDFR/BFR • FRPP does not have SDFR land ownership as a specific criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Included
<p>USDA Offices/Extension on Indian Reservations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes restriction on funding USDA offices on reservations. Section 11054. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes restriction on funding USDA offices on reservations. Section 11055. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopts House language. • Section 14001.
<p>SDFR Conservation Initiatives (same as above for Beginning Farmers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQIP (90% cost share for SDFR, discretionary; 5% set aside for SDFR and 5% for BFR. Section 2105 • All conservation programs have 90% cost share for SDFR, section 2105.) • Cooperative Conservation (evaluation criteria include addressing needs of SDFR). • CRP Transition Option. Section 2101 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% set-aside of total conservation funding for BFR/SDFR. Section 2403. • Cost-share in EQIP allows either 15% above state level or not more than 90%. Section 2353. • EQIP allows advance payments up to 30% for BFR/SDFR • Priority for BFR/SDFR in Soil and Water Conservation Loans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-asides BFR and SDFR at 5% each in CSP and EQIP • 90% cost-share for BFR/SDFR • 30% cost-share advance to BFR/SDFR • Priority for BFR/SDFR for conservation loans. Section 5002. • CRP transition option included. Section 2311.
<p>Office of Farm Workers</p>	<p>Establishes Office of Farm-worker Coordination in the Office of Outreach of the USDA and the appointment of an Outreach Coordinator. Section 11207.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established within the Risk Management Agency. Section 11059. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a Farmworker Coordinator in the Office of Advocacy and Outreach and uses Senate version with modifications • Section 14003.
<p>Credit Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Loan provision (priority for SDFR; but eliminates direct loan provisions). Section 5001. • Down Payment Loan Program and Contract Land Sales Program (includes SDFR within improved/expanded programs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority for BFR/SDFR in Conservation Loans. Section 5003. • Down Payment Loan Program and Contract Land Sales Program (includes SDFR within improved/expanded programs) and slightly lower interest rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority for BFR/SDFR in Conservation Loans. Section 5002. • Down Payment Loan Program and Contract Land Sales Program includes SDFR. Section 5004.

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	Section 5003	than House version. Section 5005	
Improvement and relocation of emergency Grants to Farm Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included with \$2 million in annual mandatory funding. Section 11061 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Included
Other – Civil Rights	Language to address Pigford Claims and \$100 million payment cap from CCC fund. Section 5402	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language to address Pigford Claims with \$100 million payment cap from CCC fund. Section 11312. • Sense of Congress Senate for USDA to settle on discrimination claims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepts Senate version of Pigford language, with minor modifications, and provides \$100 million in mandatory funds available in FY08. Section 14012. • Accepts Sense language, adds that claims be settled expeditiously. Section 14001.
Other – Foreclosure Moratorium	Not included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moratorium on acceleration and foreclosures instituted by USDA, coordinated with Outreach office. Section 11051 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Senate language with a modification that the complainant must have a USDA validated discrimination claim. Section 14002.
Other – Receipt for USDA service	Included – USDA required to provide receipt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included, language weaker than House • limited to FSA and NRCS only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included Senate version with modifications, to cover “current or prospective producer or landowner” • For FSA, NRCS, and Rural Development programs • Section 14003.

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