

## The 2008 Farm Bill: Titles and Selected Programs and Policies

**Title I, Commodities:** Income support to growers of selected commodities, including wheat, feed grains, cotton, rice, oilseeds, peanuts, sugar, and dairy. Support is largely through direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, and marketing loans. Other support mechanisms include government purchases for dairy, and marketing quotas and import barriers for sugar.

**Title II, Conservation:** Environmental stewardship of farmlands and improved management practices through land retirement and working lands programs, among other programs geared to farmland conservation, preservation, and resource protection.

**Title III, Agricultural Trade and Food Aid:** U.S. agricultural export and international food assistance programs, and program changes related to various World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations.

**Title IV, Nutrition:** Domestic food and nutrition and commodity distribution programs, such as food stamps and other supplemental nutrition assistance.

**Title V, Farm Credit:** Federal direct and guaranteed farm loan programs, and loan eligibility rules and policies.

**Title VI, Rural Development:** Business and community programs for planning, feasibility assessments, and coordination activities with other local, state, and federal programs, including rural broadband access.

**Title VII, Research:** Agricultural research and extension programs, including biosecurity and response, biotechnology, and organic production.

**Title VIII, Forestry:** USDA Forest Service programs, including forestry management, enhancement, and agroforestry programs.

**Title IX, Energy:** Bioenergy programs and grants for procurement of biobased products to support development of biorefineries and assist eligible farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses in purchasing renewable energy systems, as well as user education programs.

**Title X, Horticulture and Organic Agriculture:** A new farm bill title covering fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops and organic agriculture.

**Title XI, Livestock:** A new farm bill title covering livestock and poultry production, including provisions that amend existing laws governing livestock and poultry marketing and competition, country-of-origin labeling requirements for retailers, and meat and poultry state inspections, among other provisions.

**Title XII, Crop Insurance and Disaster Assistance:** A new farm bill title covering the federal crop insurance and disaster assistance previously included in the miscellaneous title (not including the supplemental disaster assistance provisions in the Trade and Tax title).

**Title XIII, Commodity Futures:** A new farm bill title covering reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and other changes to current law.

**Title XIV, Miscellaneous:** Other types of programs and assistance not covered in other bill titles, including provisions to assist limited-resource and socially disadvantaged farmers, and agricultural security, among others.

**Title XV, Trade and Tax Provisions:** A new title covering tax-related provisions intended to offset spending initiatives for some programs, including those in the nutrition, conservation, and energy titles. The title also contains other provisions, including the new supplemental disaster assistance and disaster relief trust fund, and other tax-related provisions such as customs user fees.

Source: Congressional Research Service, "What Is the "Farm Bill"?", Renee Johnson, Specialist in Agricultural Policy and Jim Monke, Specialist in Agricultural Policy, January 3, 2011