



2014 Farm Bill Summary

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Throughout the 2014 Farm Bill discussions, the nutrition title, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), was a contentious issue. Specifically, the debate surrounded the amount of cuts to programs like SNAP. The House of Representatives voted to cut \$40 billion from nutrition programs, while the Senate voted for a much smaller cut of \$4 billion. In the end, **the farm bill cuts \$8 billion from SNAP and other nutrition programs.**

SNAP funds are still available to millions of low-income Americans. SNAP recipients can also now receive matching payments when they use their benefits at farmers markets. This will help the hungry gain access to fresh and nutritious food and while simultaneously promoting local food systems.

The nutrition title includes a few key changes. There are now **tighter eligibility criteria** for SNAP recipients. College students, lottery winners, and undocumented immigrants are now explicitly prohibited from receiving benefits. In addition, the farm bill ends a policy allowing low-income families who qualify for heating assistance to automatically qualify for SNAP benefits.

Emergency food and nutrition assistance was given a boost in the new farm bill. **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** was given an additional \$250 million.

Additional highlights include providing fresh fruits and vegetables to areas that previously did not have access through the Healthy Food Financing Initiative. This program helps support projects that help address food deserts. In addition, \$50 million in annual funding was given to the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which permits schools to purchase greater quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORT AND FOOD AID PROGRAMS

The 2014 Farm Bill makes substantial investments in previously-existing international food aid and export promotion programs.

The bill fully funds the **Market Access Program** and **Foreign Market Development Program**, which promote U.S. agricultural products in foreign countries. The bill also solves a trade issue by making changes to the credit guarantee program in order to comply with the **World Trade Organization cotton dispute** won by Brazil.

International **food aid** programs were funded and reformed. The bill reauthorizes Food for Peace, the largest international food aid program. The bill also provides more flexibility to use cash assistance in the program. Finally, the 2014 Farm Bill emphasizes providing more nutritious food aid and not causing serious disruption to local markets.