



## 2014 Farm Bill Summary

### ORGANIC, BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS, & EMERGING MARKETS

The 2014 Farm Bill makes substantial reforms and provides new opportunities for organics, specialty crops, farmers markets and beginning farmers and ranchers. The bill substantially increases funding and creates new programs for these segments of the agriculture economy.

Local and regional food systems benefit from increased farm bill funding. The **Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program** received \$30 million per year in mandatory funding. In addition, local and regional businesses were given continued access to Business & Industry Loan Programs. A total of \$65 million is provided for Value Added Product Market Development Grants, which advance the growth of local and regional food systems.

The 2014 Farm Bill included new opportunities for specialty crops, with an additional \$50 million per year in mandatory funding for the **Specialty Crop Research Initiative** and \$72.5 million per year in mandatory funding for **Specialty Crop Block Grants**. Spending on pest and disease management and disaster prevention for specialty crops is increased to \$62.5 million per year for the first four years of the farm bill, and \$75 million is allocated for 2018 and after the farm bill expires.

Specialty crops will have access to new crop insurance options, and will also be subject to the same conservation compliance requirements as traditional commodities. Producers are allowed a 5-year period to comply with highly erodible land requirements and 2 years to comply with the modified wetlands requirements.

The farm bill continued its support of organic agricultural production, with \$11.5 million per year in funding for the **Organic Certification Cost Share Program**, to help farmers and ranchers defray the costs of organic certification. The **Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative** was provided \$20 million per year in mandatory funding to better educate organic farmers and ranchers of the latest innovations in organic production.

The bill supports **beginning farmers and ranchers** in a wide variety of



*President Obama signs the Farm Bill at Michigan State University on Feb. 7, 2014 (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)*