



# What Can the Farm Bill Do for Me?

**The Food, Conservation, & Energy Act of 2008 is the single most important piece of legislation for improving the quality of life for rural, suburban and urban Americans.**

## **Maintains a Safety Net for Farmers & Ranchers**

- Establishes a permanent disaster assistance program for crop and livestock producers to offset losses due to natural disasters.
- Reforms farm program payments to target assistance to family producers.
- Continues more dairy support programs such as MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract).
- Provides funding for specialty crop and organic industries.
- Provides funding to help Beginning & Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

## **Ensures Food Security**

- Includes record investments for nutrition programs including food stamps and vital assistance to food banks.
- Funds programs that bring fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income school children with initiatives to help fight obesity.

## **Protects the Environment**

- Increases conservation program spending authority by \$7.9 billion.
- Continues the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with new provisions that provide tax incentives for retiring farmers to transfer enrolled land to beginning, low income or socially disadvantaged farmers.
- Increases funding for Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), while emphasizing locally-determined priority resources of concern.
- Provides research funding to address Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in pollinators.

## **Promotes the Development of Fuels from the Farm**

- Provides \$1 billion to fund programs to help the renewable energy industry invest in new technologies that use a variety of feedstocks beyond feed grains.
- Redirects part of the corn ethanol tax credits to create incentives for cellulosic ethanol production.
- Continues biodiesel fuel education initiative by providing competitive grants to educate the public about the effective use of biodiesel. Helps existing ethanol facilities reduce fossil fuel use by converting to renewable biomass energy systems.

## **Brings Much Needed Reform to the Livestock Industry**

- Mandates implementation of country of origin labeling (COOL) on meat, produce and nuts by September 30, 2008.
- Provides livestock producers the right to decline arbitration requirements.
- Creates a program for the interstate sale and shipment of meat products from certain state-inspected processing facilities.
- Creates more transparency in market information and requires online postings to improve public access.

## **Promotes Viability of Rural Communities**

- Extends Rural Cooperative Development Grant program, which encourages and stimulates the development of cooperatives in rural America.
- Improves access to technologies in rural areas such as broadband telecommunications, giving priority to the most need rural areas.