



Agricultural Act of 2014



2014 Farm Bill Overview and Implementation

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- **American Farmland Trust Priorities:**
 - **Protect farmland conservation funding**
 - **Target resources for greater conservation outcomes**
 - **Relink conservation compliance with crop insurance**
 - **Reauthorization of beginning farmer, farmers market and local foods programs**



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Key Farm Bill Themes:

■ Budget Reduction

- Overall savings of \$23 Billion, \$4 Billion from conservation

■ Risk Management Based Safety Net

- Reinvests substantially in crop insurance, reforms for conservation compliance

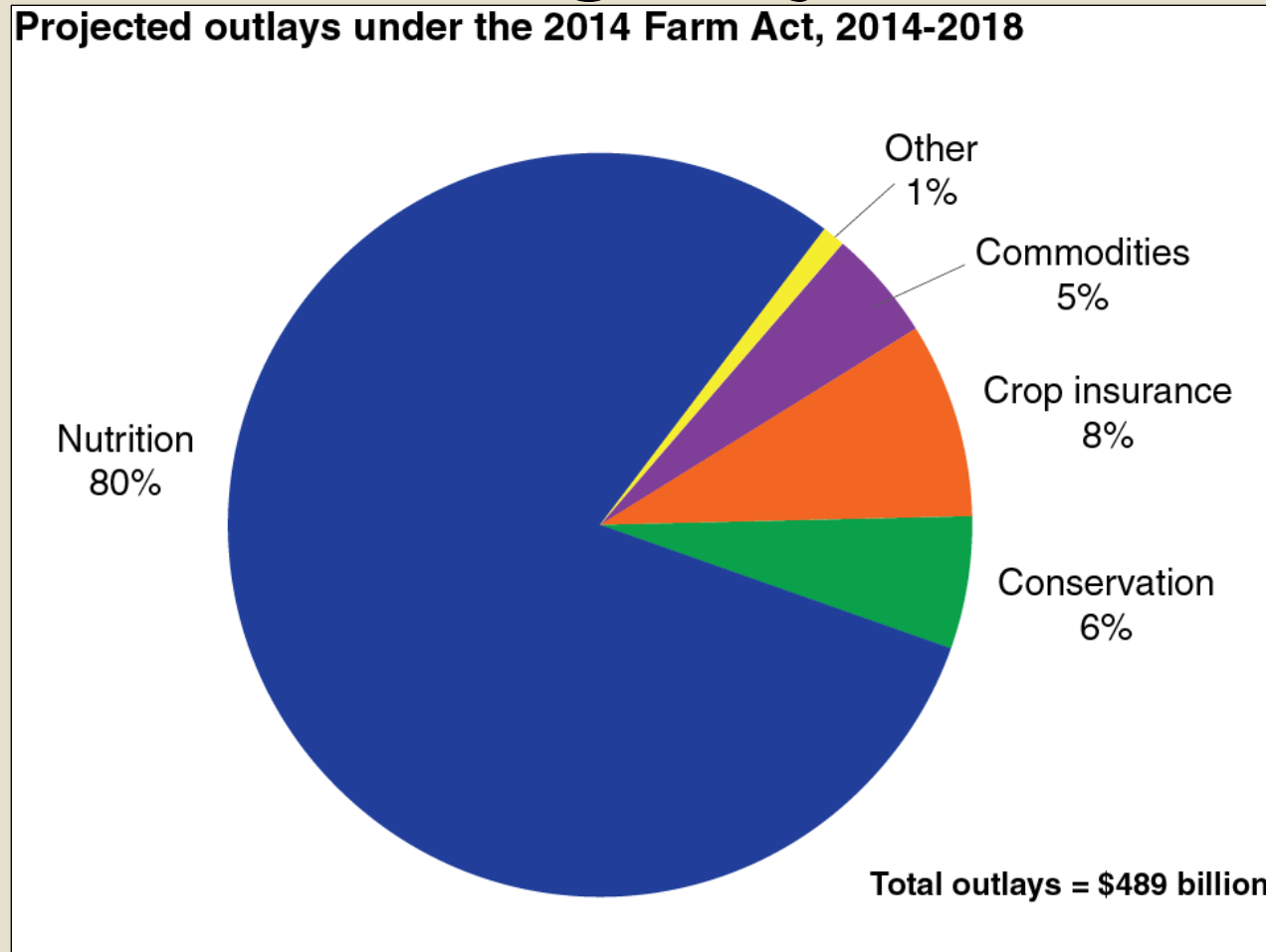
■ Streamlining, Effectiveness, Efficiency

- Consolidates and focuses programs to improve outcomes, administration



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■ Farm Bill Funding Projections:



Source: USDA ERS



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Program changes:

- Provides \$57 billion for farm bill conservation funding
- Consolidates 23 to 13 programs across five main focus areas

Easements	Stewardship	Financial	Retirement	Targeting
ACEP \$2 billion	CSP 10 M acres annually	EQIP \$8 billion	CRP 24 M acres	RCPP \$1 billion



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Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (Ag and Wetland Easements)

- Provides \$2 billion for conservation easements
- Stronger Certification Language
- Provides cash waiver authority

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$400 Million	\$425 Million	\$450 Million	\$500 Million	\$250 Million



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Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Provides over \$1 billion for targeted conservation
- Allocates 7% from ACEP, CSP, EQIP, HFRP
- National (40%), State (25%) and CCA (35%)

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$235.94 Million	\$255.19 Million	\$260.44 Million	\$263.94 Million	\$253.44 Million



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Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Provides \$8 billion for financial assistance
- Maintains 60% livestock, provides at least 5% wildlife habitat incentives

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$1.35 Billion	\$1.6 Billion	\$1.65 Billion	\$1.65 Billion	\$1.75 Billion



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Conservation Reserve Program

- Steps down acreage cap to 24 million
- Continues emergency haying/grazing
- Transition incentives

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
27.5 Million	26 Million	25 Million	24 Million	24 Million



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Regional Equity

- For states that can demonstrate ability to use, provides aggregate allocation of up to 0.6% of conservation funds
- Different from 2008 Farm Bill provision that provided \$15 million for individual regional equity states



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Reinvests in Beginning Farmers, Farmers Markets, Specialty Crops and Local Foods

- Provides over \$675 million in funding mandatory funding
- Potential for additional \$400 million through appropriations



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- **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program**
 - \$100 Million + \$30 Million/year appropriation potential
 - Includes minimum 5% for veteran farmers and limited resource farmers

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$20 Million	\$20 Million	\$20 Million	\$20 Million	\$20 Million
+\$30 million	+\$30 million	+\$30 million	+\$30 million	+\$30 million



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- **Farmers Market + Local Food Promotion**
 - \$150 Million + \$10 Million/year appropriation potential
 - Match requirement 25% total cost of project

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$30 Million	\$30 Million	\$30 Million	\$30 Million	\$30 Million
+\$10 Million	+\$10 Million	+\$10 Million	+\$10 Million	+\$10 Million



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■ Value Added Producer Grants

- \$63 Million + \$40 Million/year appropriation potential
- Priority to small and medium sized farms/ranches, veterans and socially disadvantaged farmers/ranchers

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$63 million available until expended				
+ \$40 Million	+ \$40 Million	+ \$40 Million	+ \$40 Million	+ \$40 Million



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- **Specialty Crop Block Grants**
 - \$72.5 Million per year, \$85 Million in fiscal year 2018

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$72.5 Million	\$72.5 Million	\$72.5 Million	\$72.5 Million	\$85 Million



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■ **USDA Implementation Update:**

- Open ALE application period closes by June 6 (or state deadline, whichever earlier)
- RCPP announcement of program funding expected by end of May
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Grant applications open, due by June 12
- Farmers Market and Local Foods Promotion Program funding announced, applications due June 20



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THE 2014 FARM BILL: FARM POLICY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Throughout the Farm Bill process, American Farmland Trust worked to move U.S. farm policy forward by:

- Strengthening policies, programs, and resources to protect farmland as a strategic national resource
- Promoting sound environmental stewardship through advancing adoption of conservation practices
- And encouraging the development of a more diverse, healthy, and equitable food system consistent with thriving rural and urban communities.

American Farmland Trust's key priorities included, protecting programs from extreme funding cuts in a harsh budget environment, reforming farm policy to ensure programs were more effectively delivered at the local level to increase conservation outcomes, and providing new opportunities through programs for beginning farmers, farmers markets and local foods.



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- What is the Farm Bill?

Protecting Farmland

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Promoting Sound Farming Practices

- Conservation Compliance
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Keeping Farmers on the Land

- Beginning farmers, Local Food and Farmers Markets

Making Your Voices Heard

- What is Next?

<http://www.farmland.org>



Questions?

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