

# 2014 FARM CONFERENCE REPORT

As your Representative, I am working daily to effectively and efficiently streamline our federal government to empower our farmers and entrepreneurs and get our economy back on track. This is why I support the Conference Committee Agricultural Act of 2014, a bipartisan, bicameral bill that saves taxpayers' money, reduces spending, improves farm policy, and replaces wasteful government programs with common-sense reforms.

While I had hoped the Conference Committee would maintain all reforms and savings found in the House-passed bill, specifically regarding the reforms to food stamps, the status quo is simply unacceptable. Our farmers and agribusiness community have waited long enough for a comprehensive five-year farm bill and our local economy depends on it.

## SAVES TAXPAYERS DOLLARS, CUTS SPENDING

*The Agriculture Act of 2014 provides logical reforms that streamline our federal government and cut spending, ultimately supporting our farmers, ranchers and rural communities and alleviating onerous taxes on all Americans.*

- **Ultimately saves taxpayers \$23 billion in mandatory federal spending**
- **Saves taxpayers more than \$8 billion** by closing loop-holes in SNAP
- Eliminates direct payments completely and ensures no payments are made to those who don't farm
- Guarantees illegal immigrants, lottery winners, traditional college students and deceased **do not receive benefits**

## STREAMLINES AND IMPROVES FARM POLICY

*The Agriculture Act of 2014 mitigates burdensome and inefficient regulations while implementing and streamlining reforms that support North Carolina's farmers, ranchers and rural communities.*

- Modernizes agriculture programs to be **cost-effective and market-oriented**
- Consolidates or eliminates more than 100 outdated, duplicative programs
- Strengthens crop insurance and allows producers to choose risk management tools specific to their needs
- Improves conservation delivery by **consolidating 23 overlapping programs to 13**, strengthening and tailoring conservation tools.
- Reauthorizes and **strengthens livestock disaster assistance**, which was terminated in 2011
- Provides one year full funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) important to counties with vast federal land

## CUTS AND REFORMS FOOD STAMPS

*The Agriculture Act of 2014 offers the first reforms and savings to food stamps also known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) law since welfare reform in 1996, modernizing SNAP programs while eliminating waste, fraud and abuse.*

- Establishes program to empower states to **engage able-bodied adults in mandatory work programs**
- Prohibits USDA from **engaging in SNAP recruitment activities and advertising SNAP** on TV, radio, billboards and through foreign governments
- Prohibits states from classifying medical marijuana as a medical expense to manipulate SNAP benefits
- Requires states to report effectiveness of SNAP employment and training programs

- Cuts mandatory funds from farm bill spending, saving \$23 billion in taxpayer dollars.

- Reforms SNAP law for the first time since the welfare reforms of 1996, saving taxpayers more than \$8 billion.

- Strengthens SNAP law to better serve those in need of assistance by preventing waste, fraud and abuse.

- Provides certainty and stability for our farmers, ranchers and rural communities by adopting a five-year farm bill.

- Implements and strengthens reforms while providing the most significant reduction to farm policy spending in history.

- Mitigates inefficient, burdensome and costly regulations, giving farmers more flexibility and options that best suit their needs.

- Strengthens and streamlines valuable conservation tools from 23 programs to 13.

- Reduces regulatory barriers and burdens for our farmers and job creators.



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