

2014 Farm Bill

Highlights for Wyoming Livestock Operators

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Background

- Real name is The Agricultural Act of 2014
 - discussion started in 2011, 2008 law extended
 - signed into law February 2014
- Haggling over budget cuts, gov't role, program design (from philosophy to micro management)
 - House wanted much larger SNAP cuts than the Senate (the final result is closer to the Senate proposal)
 - the final hold up: Boehner (OH) and Peterson (MN) dispute over whether the new dairy program should include a supply control feature (it doesn't)

Title	Title Name	Purpose
I	Commodities	Price or revenue protection for growers of program crops
II	Conservation	Retirement of cropland for conservation purposes; support for adoption of conservation activities and practices on working lands
III	Trade	Food aid, export credit guarantee, and overseas market access
IV	Nutrition	SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), commodity distribution
V	Credit	Farm ownership and operating loans
VI	Rural Development	Small business loans, housing loan guarantees, water management projects, rural electrification and rural broadband investments, distance learning and telemedicine
VII	Research & Extension	Agricultural research and extension at Land Grant universities, and identification of national research priorities
VIII	Forestry	Forest health initiatives
IX	Energy	Investments in alternative energy technology and production of renewable biomass for biofuels
X	Horticulture	Specialty crop promotion, including organic, local food, and farmers market activities
XI	Crop Insurance	Subsidized crop insurance to protect against losses due to price and yield risk
XII	Miscellaneous	Examples: Livestock health and marketing programs; support for socially disadvantaged and limited-resource producers

Highlights of changes

Or: Is anything really any different this time around?

- Commodity support programs are different
BUT just as complex, or maybe more so
- Conservation programs are not so different
BUT there is a significant shift in emphasis
- Food assistance (SNAP) was cut
BUT not nearly as much as desired by some
- Subsidized crop insurance was expanded..alot
BUT conservation compliance now required to qualify for premium subsidies!

Budget outlook reflects changes

Area	Original 2014-2023 Baseline	Senate Proposal	House Proposal	Agricultural Act of 2014	
	(\$ billions)	(change in \$ billions)	(change in \$ billions)	(change in \$ billions)	(\$ billions)
Commodities	\$58.8	-\$17.4	-\$18.7	-\$14.3	\$44.5
Crop Insurance	\$84.1	+\$5.0	+\$8.9	+\$5.7	\$89.8
Conservation	\$61.6	-\$3.5	-\$4.8	-\$4.0	\$57.6
Nutrition (SNAP)	\$764	-\$3.9	-\$39.0	-\$8.0	\$756
Other Titles	\$4.0	+\$1.9	+1.7	+\$4.1	\$8.1
Total	\$973	-\$17.9	-\$51.9	-\$16.5	\$956

Implications for Wyoming Livestock Operators

- Conservation program changes
- Disaster assistance program changes
- Other
 - Beginning farmer and rancher
 - Biofuel programs?

Conservation Program Changes

Portfolio of programs streamlined, programs shifted around, emphasis shifted to working lands

- Smaller CRP (cap reduced)

Implications for emergency haying and grazing?

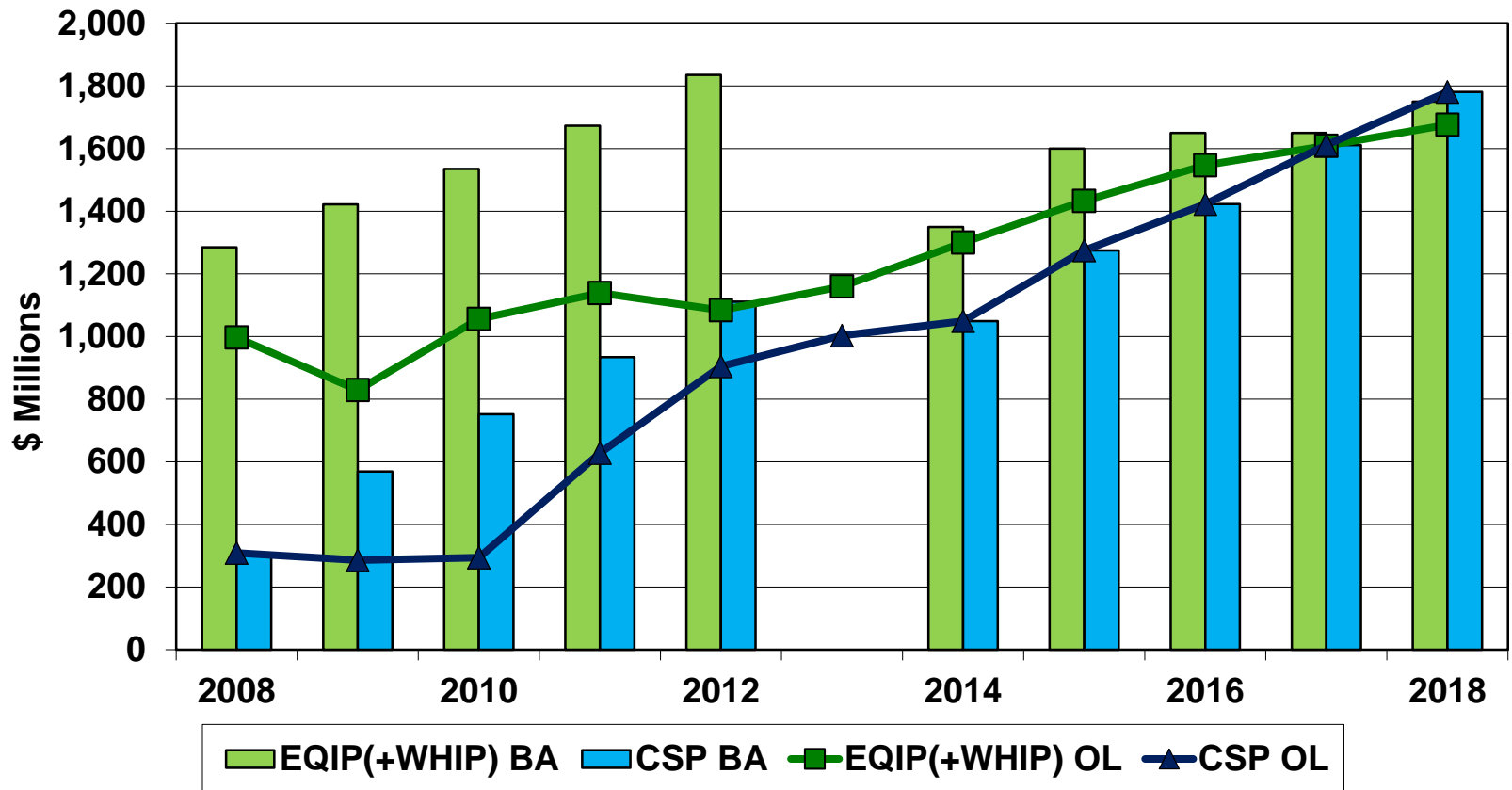
- Farm and Ranch Land Protection program repealed, replaced with Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Lower funding level

- Bigger role for NRCS working lands programs (EQIP and CSP)

Offer cost share (up to 75%), incentive payments, and technical assistance for various conservation practices

Working Lands Programs Budget Authority (BA) and Outlays (OL)



Source: USDA-NRCS and Congressional Budget Office

NRCS Obligations in Wyoming, FY2012

- Total technical and financial assistance obligations of \$59.2 million
- EQIP obligations = \$18.7 million
- Farm and Ranchland Protection (easement) obligations = \$15.8 million
- CSP obligations = \$8.5 million

Wyoming Land Units Receiving NRCS conservation program benefits by conservation practice type, 2012

Conservation Practice Type	Acres Treated	Number of Practices
Cropland Soil Quality	109,004	1,016
Fish and Wildlife Habitat	448,845	861
Forest Land Conservation	8,179	19
Grazing Land Conservation	1,122,240	1,176
Irrigation Efficiency	69,159	701
Water Quality	549,556	2,005
Wetlands	10,279	33

Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Programs, NRCS Conservation Programs

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/NRCS_RCA/reports/cp_wy.html

Most popular NRCS-supported grazing land conservation practices, fy2012

- Brush management
- Fencing
- Integrated pest management
- Livestock pipeline
- Prescribed grazing
- Pumping plant
- Water well
- Watering facility