

What's in the Farm Bill

And Why Should We Care?

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Less than one percent of the U.S. population claim farming as an occupation, and only about two percent live on farms. Therefore, the farm bill affects only a small percentage of Americans.

- True
- False

In 2012 one in four Americans participated in at least one of the USDA's food assistance programs. What are these programs?

- SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) is the big one (title IV of the farm bill)
- Commodity distribution (also title IV)
- School breakfast and lunch
- WIC

Then it must be the case that the farm bill is important to low-income people and some farmers, but not to the rest of us.

- True
- False

Farm bill programs affect **food prices**. Do you eat?

Farm bill provisions can affect **food safety**. Hope you've never had food poisoning!

Farm bill programs conserve **wildlife habitat**. Do you value wildlife preservation, or like to hunt and fish?

Farm bill programs can affect the nation's **energy portfolio**. Do you fill up your gas tank now and then?

Farm bill programs provide support for **rural communities** and rural development. Do you live in a major metropolitan area?

Farm bill programs fund **agricultural research and extension**. Do you teach or study at a land grant university? (Hint: UW is a land grant.)

Farm bill programs also **cost money**. Do you pay taxes?

And, yes, farm bill programs DO

- Support farm prices and income
 - About 38 percent of U.S. farmers and ranchers participate in a farm payment program
- Protect farmers and ranchers against typical risks and also disaster-related losses
 - This means droughts and floods, for example
- Help farmers and ranchers adopt environmentally sound practices, such as soil and water conservation

AND

- Make food more affordable and accessible for low-income individuals and households

If the farm bill covers so much ground it must be an enormous piece of legislation, even bigger than the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare)

True

False

The 2014 farm bill was signed into law on February 7, 2014.

The formal name is the Agricultural Act of 2014.

It contains 350 pages and 12 “titles”

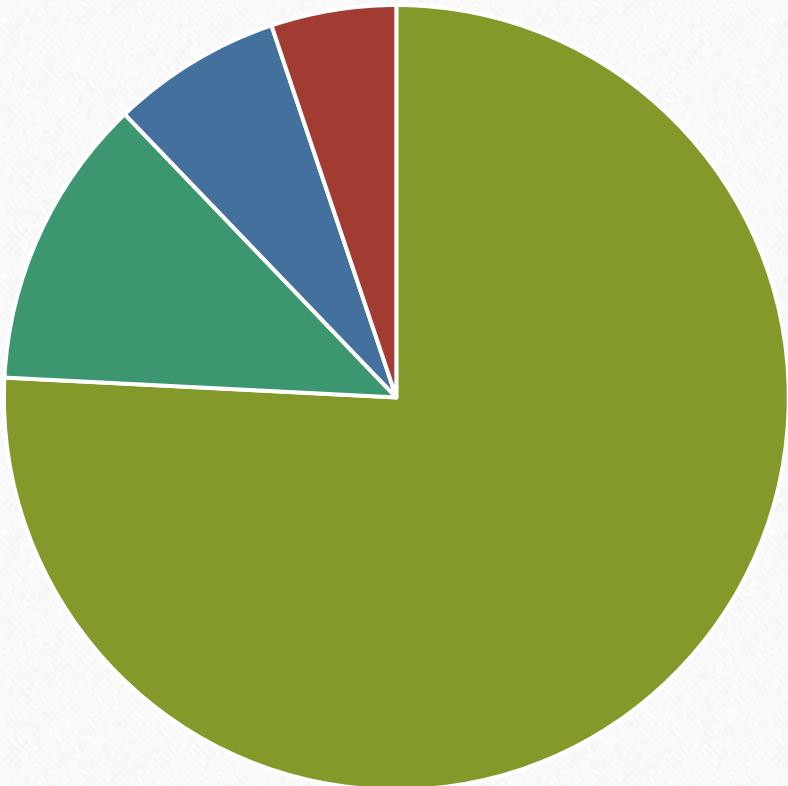
(The Affordable Care Act is 906 pages.)

Title Number	Title Name	Purpose
I	Commodities	Price or income support for growers of qualifying commodities
II	Conservation	Retirement of cropland for various time periods, typically 10 or 15 years; support for adoption of conservation activities and practices by farmers and ranchers
III	Trade	Food aid, export credit guarantee, and overseas market access
IV	Nutrition	Food and nutrition assistance for low-income households, pregnant and lactating women, infants, school children, and adults in care facilities
V	Credit	Farm ownership and operating loans
VI	Rural Development	Rural community development, such as small business loans, 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

If the farm bill covers so much ground it must cost a lot!

- True
- False

Allocation of the \$139.7 billion USDA Budget, 2012



■ Food and Nutrition

■ Farm and Foreign Ag Services

■ Natural Resources and Environment

■ Other

Federal Agency	Outlays in 2002 (million \$)	Outlays in 2012 (million \$)
Agriculture	\$68,622 (3.4% of total)	\$139,717 (3.95% of total)
Commerce	5,312	10,273
Defense	331,845	650,867
Education	46,373	57,249
Energy	17,669	32,484
HHS (Medicare)	465,326	848,056
Homeland Security	17,570	47,422
HUD	31,788	49,600
Interior	9,739	12,891
Justice	21,178	31,159
Labor	64,686	104,588
State	9,327	26,947
Transportation	56,252	75,149
Treasury	371,187	464,714
NASA	14,405	17,190
NSF	4,155	7,255
Social Security (off budget)	442,010	632,903
Total Outlays	\$2,010,894	\$3,537,127

Wyoming has such a tiny percentage of the country's population (.18 percent) and so few farmers that farm bill outlays must be insignificant in this neck of the woods.

- True
- False

Farm Bill facts for Wyoming: Food Assistance

- 6.5 percent of the Wyoming population receive SNAP benefits.
 - Lower participation than the national average by quite a lot, even among qualifying individuals and household
 - Foregone benefits could amount to about \$38 million/year
- Over 37 percent of Wyoming school kids qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches
- Forty non-profit and religious organizations from all parts of the state distribute USDA commodities

Farm Bill facts for Wyoming: Farm Programs

- Between 1995 and 2012 Wyoming ranked 37th out of 50 states in terms of the value of farm program payments
- Twenty five percent of farms and ranches received payments
 - Conservation payments totaled \$231.8 million
 - Commodity payments totaled \$225 million
 - Disaster assistance payments totaled \$176 million
 - Livestock, sheep meat, and wool payments totaled \$112 million
- Payments can be significant for some growers in some years. For example, in 2011 wheat program payments to Wyoming equaled 16 percent of cash receipts from wheat sales.

Farm Bill facts for Wyoming: Conservation Programs

- About 200,000 acres of Wyoming farm land are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)*
 - CRP acreage is highly concentrated in crop-producing southeastern district of state, but other areas of state do have enrolled lands
- USDA budget obligations for technical and financial assistance for the adoption of conservation practices were \$59.2 million in 2012
 - Between 1 and 2.25 million acres were “treated” by a USDA conservation program between 2005 and 2012
- Grazing land conservation practices are the most important ones in Wyoming, followed by fish and wildlife habitat practices

*Wyoming has 30 million acres of agricultural land, but only 3 million in cropland

Farm Bill facts for Wyoming: Rural Community Programs

- Largest category of support is for single family housing loan guarantees and other rural housing support
- One percent of USDA rural housing service funds programmed for Wyoming (whereas Wyoming has .4 percent of U.S. rural residents)
- Wyoming also received support for rural business loans and grants, and for rural utilities loans and grants

Farm Bill facts for Wyoming: Research and Extension at the College of Ag and Natural Resources

- Hatch funds for research and Smith-Lever funds for extension are allocated according to a formula related to a state's share of the farm and rural population
- Wyoming's Hatch funds are about \$1.2 million (16 percent of Experiment Station funding)
- Wyoming's Smith-Lever funds are about \$1.5 million (23 percent of Extension funding)

MAKE UP EXAM:

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- True
- False

THANK YOU!!!!!!