



Farm Bill Reauthorization

Making the case for public health priorities in the Farm Bill

The 2007 Farm Bill is an expansive federal legislative initiative that guides the federal government's involvement in the nation's food system and farm policies. This bill will address critical public health issues including agricultural production, food and nutrition assistance, rural development, renewable energy, equity, and conservation policies. Public health has an important role to play in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill. From obesity, and hunger to access to healthy foods and environmental conservation, public health professionals are at the table and helping to make decisions to improve key elements of the 2007 Farm Bill.

School Nutrition Standards:

- Incorporate the Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act into the Reauthorization legislation.

Nutrition Research:

- Increase research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by \$200 million per year, with a strong emphasis on food and human nutrition research.

Food Stamp Nutrition Education:

- Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE): enhance the effectiveness of FSNE programs by allowing states to use the most effective means available to promote healthy eating and effectively target food stamp recipients.

WIC Program:

- Require review and update, as necessary, of WIC Food Packages every 10 years.

Promote Children's Fruit and Vegetable Intake:

- USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: provide \$300 million per year in mandatory spending for national expansion of the fruit and vegetable snack program for students.
- Section 32 Purchases: increase the minimum threshold for Section 32 purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables from \$200 million to \$400 million per year.
- Department of Defense Fresh Program: increase purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables through the program from \$50 million per year to \$75 million/yr for the FY09 – FY10 and \$100 million/yr for FY11 and \$125 million/yr for FY12. This program allows schools to buy a wide variety of high quality produce for the school lunch program.
- Food Stamp Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Program: provide states with \$10 million per year to develop and test approaches to provide incentives for purchases of fruits and vegetables through the Food Stamp Program.

Access to Healthy Foods:

- Promote local and sustainably produced foods by supporting farmers' markets, other direct farmer-to-consumer marketing, farmers transitioning to beneficial forms of agricultural production, and infrastructure to enable processing and distributing such food.

- Create new and expanded food systems programs to help communities develop retail food markets, urban agriculture projects, and marketing networks to address the needs of underserved neighborhoods.

Conservation:

- Re-establish quantifiable conservation objectives, and dedicate funds to monitor and assess the environmental benefits of conservation programs.
- Significantly increase funding for working lands conservation programs.
- Increase assistance to help agricultural facilities reduce pesticide use.
- Double funding of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to \$2 billion per year and prioritize applications with high environmental performance.

Food Safety

- Promote research and policy to help change the conditions causing contamination.
- Further develop surveillance infrastructure and policy, to support more effective prevention and response.

Antibiotic Resistance

- Provide incentives to eliminate or reduce sub-therapeutic antibiotic use in healthy animals, stop use of important human antibiotics for growth promotion, and support related surveillance and research.

Climate Change and Resource Use

- Support research and other activities to help reduce energy use in agriculture, and identify optimal types of and production methods for renewal energy sources.