

House Farm Bill Conservation Proposals for the 2002 Farm Bill October 1, 2001

Program	Boehlert/Kind/Gilchrest/Dingell Amendment to H.R. 2646 (Based on Working Lands Stewardship Act)	Farm Security Act of 2001 (Amendment to Substitute H.R. 2646) (Combest)
CRP	<p>Raises enrollment cap to 45 million acres, including 7 million acres to environmentally sensitive lands via CCRP and CREP; up to 3 million acres in permanent easements, including 1 million acres on isolated wetlands (economic use prohibited)</p> <p>Provides eligibility for producers of fruits, vegetables, orchards & sod</p> <p>Permits native seed collection and wind turbine siting</p>	<p>Raises enrollment cap to 39.2 million acres through 2011. Increase in biomass pilot acreage \$1.4 billion / 10 years</p> <p>Seeks to balance soil erosion, water quality and wildlife habitat in awarding of contracts</p> <p>Permits managed haying, grazing, wind turbines and biomass recovery “consistent with the conservation of soil, water quality and wildlife habitat.”</p>
WRP	<p>Ramps enrollment up to 250,000 acres/year Establishes regional equity system</p>	<p>Enroll 150,000 acres / year \$1.5 billion / 10 years</p>
EQIP	<p>\$1.0 - 1.7 billion/ year</p> <p>50% goes to livestock producers but large CAFOs are only eligible for technical assistance</p> <p>Targets 10% to each of the following: managed grazing, innovative manure management, irrigation efficiency and pesticides/herbicide reduction</p> <p>Contract length: 5-10 years; raises payment limitation to \$30K annually, \$150K per contract</p> <p>Two new pilot programs for Drinking Water Supply and Nutrient Reduction</p> <p>Watershed quality Incentives Program, \$450-700 million per year</p>	<p>Average funding \$1.285 billion / year</p> <p>50% goes to livestock producers; large CAFOs eligible for cost-share payments</p> <p>Contract length: 1-10 years; raises payment limitation to \$50K annually, \$200K for contract</p> <p>Prioritizes projects “that aid producers in complying with federal and state environmental laws” and “encourage the utilization of sustainable grazing systems”</p> <p>\$60 million per year for groundwater conservation</p>
WHIP	<p>\$200-500 million per year</p> <p>50% targeted to habitat for imperilled native species or habitats identified by State conservation plans: 10% for easements</p>	<p>\$30-50 million per year</p>
FPP	<p>\$100-500 million per year</p>	<p>\$50 million per</p>
WREP	<p>not mentioned</p>	<p>not mentioned</p>
Private Grazing Lands	<p>\$20 million annually for new program to “improve the ecological health of grazing land” 5-, 10-, or 20-year contracts</p>	<p>not mentioned</p>

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Grassland Reserve Program	<p>3 million acres of grasslands, shrublands & blufflands enrolled in 10- or 20-year contracts or permanent easements (at least half may be in permanent easements)</p> <p>Permits grazing, haying mowing (after nesting season), fire breaks, habitat enhancements Prohibits any use that breaks the soil (row crops, orchards, construction, etc.)</p> <p>Allows cost share for restoration</p>	2 million acres (50% native grassland, 50% restored grassland) enrolled in 10, 15, 20, 30 year contracts or permanent easements (max. of 1/3 of funds into permanent easements)
Mandatory Programs	not mentioned	Appears to retain Conservation Compliance, Sodbuster and Swampbuster intact
Forestry Provisions	<p>\$50 million mandatory + \$50 million authorized for urban & community forestry</p> <p>Establishes Watershed Forestry Initiative for non-industrial private forest lands, with \$75 million annually for easements, \$25 million annually for land management practices and \$10 million annually for watershed planning grants</p>	<p>Repeals Forestry Incentives Programs and Stewardship Incentives Program, and replaces them with Forest Land Enhancement Program (cost share); \$150 million mandatory funding</p> <p>Establishes Forest Land Enhancement Program for cost-share of management activities on non-industrial private forestland; \$15 million/year</p> <p>\$30 million discretionary for Renewable Resources Extension Activities</p> <p>\$35 million discretionary for Enhanced Community Fire Protection</p> <p>Reauthorizes International Forestry Program</p> <p>Implements National Fire Plan using “stewardship end result contracts”</p> <p>Develops Sustainable Forestry education program</p>
Technical Assistance, Education & Training	<p>\$200 million per year</p> <p>Authorizes third-party contracts</p> <p>Establishes 8 training centers for third party certification</p> <p>Mandates revision of conservation practice standards</p> <p>Secretary reimburses NRCS for CRP, WRP, EQIP & FPP administration</p>	<p>Allows direct or third-party technical assistance</p> <p>Mandates re-evaluation of technical assistance under CRP, WRP and EQIP.</p>
Research	Evaluation of economic and environmental benefits, \$10 million per year	Permanent authorization of the RC&D program

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Marketing Activities	\$10 million for Federal-State Marketing Activities \$10 million for Market Development Grants	\$15 million for Senior Farmers Market Nutrition program
Socially Disadvantaged Farmers	\$15 million per year mandatory	\$10-25 million per year discretionary
Organic Transition Assistance	\$20-50 mil/ year To assist new and existing organic farmers with market development, technical assistance, conservation, etc. (max \$10,000/ year per producer, up to 3 years) and cost of certification (max. \$500)	not mentioned
Bioenergy	Not mentioned	\$50 million in discretionary funds for grants to energy producers to purchase “hazardous fuels derived from forest lands” “Include animal fats, agricultural by-products and oils as eligible commodities under existing Bioenergy program
Other	Conservation Corridor Demonstration Project providing contracts, easements and development rights to link federal, state and local conservation efforts Great Lakes Soil Erosion reduction, \$10 million per year discretionary Require conservation funds distribution based on state share of agricultural market value of production (0.52- 7% per state).	Farmland Stewardship Program: “ to use federal conservation programs in conjunction with state and local conservation efforts” Small Watershed Dam Restoration \$15 million per year
Offset	\$1.9 billion per year comes from reductions in commodity payments to farms who would otherwise receive the top 10% of payments. Currently, 8% of farms receive 46% of government payments (USDA).	

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