

Senate Conservation Title Proposals for the 2002 Farm Bill – November 30, 2001

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Program	S. 1267: Conservation Extension & Enhancement Act of 2001 (Crapo)	S. 1571: Farm and Ranch Equity Act of 2001 (Lugar)	Senate Agriculture Committee Bill	S. 1727: Conservation Assistance & Regional Equity Act (Reid & Leahy)
CRP	\$2 billion? Raise enrollment cap to 40 million acres 2.5 million acres for continuous CRP and 1.1 million for CREP Eliminate cropping history requirements for continuous CRP Establish grazing & haying guidelines Automatic 10-year extensions for tree plantings	Raises enrollment cap to 40 million acres Mandates enrollment of 4 million acres in buffers under CREP Extends hardwood tree contracts to 15 years, with 50% reduction in rental payment Permits haying & grazing on buffer strips	Raises enrollment cap to 40 million acres CRP and CREP may enroll lands without cropping history; CRP enrollments require 3-6 yr. history Extend hardwood tree contracts for up to 15 years Allow limited haying and grazing, and wind turbines Permanently authorize Wetlands Pilot Program No breakout of HEL without cropping history	Raises enrollment to 42 million acres up to 5.5 million acres of sensitive lands under continuous CRP Eligibility for restored riparian areas Up to 3 million acres of permanent easements Third-party easements allowed Continuous enrollment of buffers Allows wind turbines and native seed collection
WRP	\$250 million /year? Annual enrollment cap of 250,000 acres Clarify/reaffirm third party consultation	Increases enrollment cap by 1 million acres Includes a Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program for wetlands restoration; capped at 50,000 acres per year	Increase annual acreage enrollment to 250,000 acres, to maximum extent possible	250,000 acres per year
WHIP	\$100 million annually \$40 million to support local initiatives to avoid listing under the ESA; safe harbor provision Discretionary funding	\$50 million per year	'02 - \$50m; '03- \$100m; '04- \$100m; '05- \$125m; '06- \$125m Allows long-term easements At least 15% toward protecting imperilled species	\$100, 200, 400, 400, 450 million, 2002-6 respectively Incentive payments and up to 10% for easements Priority to imperilled species Can be used by nonprofits for public lands
WREP	not mentioned	Established under WRP	Adds cooperative agreements and includes monitoring and maintenance	??

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EQIP	<p>\$550 million/year rollover of non-expended funds Allows 1- to 10- year contracts Eliminates buy-down Eliminates operator size limits and NPDES permit limits New payment limits: \$30k/ yr, \$150k/ contract Eliminates priority area requirement Separate line item for CO River salinity (\$15 million/ year) 20% for technical assistance Includes air quality Focus on non-point source needs Third party technical advising</p>	<p>\$750 million in 2003; \$1.25 billion in '04; \$2.15 billion in '05 & '06 3-10 year contracts New Payment limits: \$50k/yr; \$150k/contract Eliminates operator size limits and NPDES permit limits Limit one structural nutrient management structure per contract Secretary not required to prioritize lowest bids Rolls over non expended funds and funds from cancelled contracts Federal cost share 75%; 90% for natural disasters and limited resources farmers Up to 5% of funds to provide incentives for cooperation on special projects related to air and water \$100 million/yr for conservation innovation (includes pollution credits and carbon sequestration) Working Land Environmental Improvement Option: to address comprehensive land management practices: 5-10 year contracts, bonus payments up to \$25k per year; allocates \$100 million in '03, \$150 million in '04, \$400 m in '05 & '06</p>	<p>\$500, 1050, 1,200, 1,200, 1,250 million, 2002-6, respectively New payment limitation: \$50k/year, \$150,000 per contract Contract length: 3-10 years Eliminates operator size limits and NPDES permit limits (large CAFOs) Limit one structural nutrient management structure per contract Secretary not required to prioritize lowest bids Federal cost share 75%; 90% for natural disasters and limited resources farmers</p>	<p>\$250, 400, 700, 850 970 million, 2002-6 respectively \$150, 250, 450, 550, 630 million, 2002-6 respectively, for Watershed Quality Incentives New payment limits: \$30k/year; \$150k/contract Establishes pilot programs with Incentive payments to improve drinking water quality and nutrient reduction Uses environmental benefits index and prioritizes disadv. farmers and those who implemented practices at their own expense maintains 50% to livestock, Maintains EQIP caps \$100 million per year to managed grazing, innovative manure management, & water conservation Guarantees \$ 5m/year to each state</p>

FPP	\$100 million/year	\$65 million per year for Technical Assistance and Easements; includes grassland protection	\$150, 150, 200, 200, 225 million per 2002-06, respectively Rename to Agricultural Land Protection Program NGOs can purchase easements Conservation plan required All types of ag land eligible Cultural resources protection provision	\$150, 250, 400, 450, 500 million per 2002-6, respectively allows non-profit entities to be eligible economic viability grants to farmers
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Private Grazing Lands	\$60 million annually	not mentioned (remains at \$60 million annually discretionary)	remains at \$60 million annually discretionary funding	\$50 million per year mandatory 5, 10 or 20 year contracts for incentives to improve health of grazing land
Grassland Reserve Program	<p>\$100 million annually</p> <p>Protect up to 1 million acres of native grasslands (minimum parcel 50 acres in east, 100 acres in west)</p> <p>30-year easements for fair market value, or permanent, or state maximum, or 30-year Rental agreements</p> <p>Eligible: native grassland, shrubland, or historic (restorable - provides 75% cost share), or lands incidental to above</p> <p>Permitted: grazing, haying, fire management</p> <p>Prohibited: crops & other soil-breaking uses</p> <p>Private organizations can hold easements</p>	included under FPP	<p>Up to two million acres of grasslands and prairie</p> <p>Permanent easements and long term rentals</p> <p>Requires conservation plan</p> <p>Priority to farms and ranches that keep lands in production</p> <p>Unit size: 100 acres west of 98th, 40 acres east of 98th</p>	<p>\$50 million per year up to 3 million acres of grasslands, shrublands and blufflands in contracts and easements</p> <p>Half of acres into permanent easements, half to be enhanced with cost-share and incentive payments</p> <p>Criteria will be established to rank applicants</p> <p>Unit size: 100 acres west of 100th; 50 acres east of 90th for 30 year or permanent easements</p> <p>Permitted: grazing, haying, fire & erosion management</p> <p>Prohibited: crops, development & other soil-breaking uses</p> <p>90% restoration cost share for virgin grassland, 75% for restored</p>
Conservation Compliance, Sodbuster, Swampbuster	not mentioned (remains as is)	not mentioned (remains as is)	Expand to crop insurance	not mentioned (remains as is)

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Energy		Carbon Sequestration Demonstration Program: research and grants for carbon trading programs \$500,000 per year	Energy title: expand production & purchase of biobased products; promote on-farm efficiency and renewable production; study carbon sequestration	
Technical Assistance, Outreach, Education & Training	For Resource Conservation & Development, update statement of purpose, define councils and affiliations, option for pass-through to third parties Discretionary funding	Third party technical assistance certification	Increases funding for technical assistance; third party certification Monitoring, outreach and evaluation mandatory for all programs; third party contracting	\$200 million per year in Section 11 Conservation Program Performance review funded at \$10 million per year

<p>Other</p>	<p>Fund studies on county-by-county efforts, gains & losses and on current disaster program effectiveness</p> <p>Title VI: Resource Conservation and Development Program (amends Subtitle H of 1981 F.B.): provides technical and financial assistance to state, local, tribal and nonprofit councils to “conserve and improve the use of the land, develop natural resources, and improve and enhance the social, economic and environmental conditions” (11 pages of the bill to direct \$15 million per year)</p>	<p>Privacy Provision</p> <p>Mandates Secretary to develop a plan for consolidation and streamlining of conservation programs</p> <p>National Environmental Benefits Index</p>	<p>Conservation Security Program: provides incentive payments to all farmers who maintain and adopt conservation practices on working lands.</p> <p>Allows special projects relating to air and water quality</p> <p>Privacy provision</p> <p>Reporting on consolidation of programs</p> <p>\$15 million to purchase flood plain easements</p>	<p>Conservation Security Program: provides incentive payment to all farmers who maintain and adopt conservation practices</p> <p>Water Conservation Program: purchases water rights permanently or temporarily, with priority to transfers that assist imperilled species. \$ 25 million/yr</p> <p>Organic Research and Promotion: cost-share for certification, check-off program, germplasm research, and other research \$54 million/yr</p> <p>Farmland Stewardship Enhancement Program: for agency coordination on enrollments of exceptional environmental value; 80% cost share</p> <p>State funding allocation</p> <p>Socially disadvantaged farmers: \$15 m per year</p>
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