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Here's a Summary of the House Agriculture Committee farm bill proposal

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House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) proposed eleven farm bill titles for consideration when the full committee meets next week. Many of these proposed titles include extensions of existing programs. However, there are also several new programs and changes in funding levels. In addition, there is an “en bloc” amendment, subject to finding “reserve funding” that includes permanent authority to provide emergency agricultural assistance; creation of a biomass energy reserve and an increase in funding for the specialty crops block grant program by \$40 million for each fiscal year.

These proposals cover almost 700 pages and we are still in the process of analyzing some of the provisions. However, we've highlighted some of the key provisions below to provide you with a brief overview. Text highlighted in red refers to provisions that will be implemented only if additional funding or offsets are made available. For complete copies of each title, go to: www.agriculture.house.gov

We'll provide daily coverage next week during the committee markup.

I. Commodity title

- **Extends the commodity programs authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill.**
 - Continues direct payments at the same rate as in the 2002 Farm Bill.
 - Increases target prices for wheat, barley, oats, minor oilseeds and soybeans,
 - Increases loan rates for wheat, barley, oats, oilseed, small chickpeas and graded wool.
 - Establishes a single county loan rate for corn and grain sorghum in each county
 - Establishes separate loan rates for long grain and medium/short grain rice and for feed and malt barley.
 - Changes the calculation of the adjusted world price of cotton to reflect current market conditions and adjusts the cotton marketing loan program by creating a

special import quota and providing for economic adjustment payments or certificates for users.

The Chart below shows the proposed changes compared to the 2002 Farm Bill

	Loan rates for nonrecourse marketing loans		Counter-cyclical Target Prices		Fixed Decoupled Direct Payment	
Crop	Current	Proposed Chairman's Mark	Current	Proposed Chairman's Mark	Current	Proposed Chairman's Mark
Wheat (\$/bu.)	\$2.75	\$2.94	\$3.92	\$4.15	\$0.52	\$0.52
Corn (\$/bu)	\$1.95	\$1.95	\$2.63	\$2.63	\$0.28	\$0.28
Grain Sorghum (\$/bu.)	\$1.95	\$1.95	\$2.57	\$2.57	\$0.35	\$0.35
Barley (\$/bu)*	\$1.85		\$2.24	\$2.73	\$0.24	\$0.24
Feed Barley		\$1.95				
Malt Barley		\$2.50				
Oats(\$/bu)	\$1.33	\$1.39	\$1.44	\$1.50	\$0.024	\$0.024
Upland Cotton(\$/lb)	\$0.52	\$0.52	\$0.724	\$0.70	\$0.0667	\$0.0667
ELS Cotton (\$/lb)		\$0.7977				
Rice –long *grain (\$cwt.)	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$10.50	\$10.50	\$2.35	\$2.35
Rice-medium and short-grain (\$/cwt.)		\$6.50				
Soybeans (\$/bu)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.80	\$6.10	\$0.44	0.44
Other oilseeds (\$/lb)	\$0.93	\$0.1070	\$0.1010	\$0.1150	\$0.0008	.0080
Peanuts (\$/ton)	\$355.00	\$355.00		\$495.00		\$36.00
*Two Barley loan rates are created as feed barley and malt barley	* Two separate rice classes are created: long grain and combined medium and short grain.					

- **Modifies crop insurance program**
 - Allows producers to purchase supplemental area-based crop insurance in addition to individual yield or revenue policies

- Increases USDA's focus on risk management education for beginning farmers and ranchers.
- Requires farmers to build Actual Production History (APH) on newly broken grasslands before becoming eligible for crop insurance on that land in an attempt to prevent sod-busting.
- **Modifies and extends the current sugar program**
 - Raises the marketing loan rate for sugar (from 18 cents to 18.5 cents for cane sugar and from 22.9 cents to 23.5 cents for beet sugar) and changes overall allotment quota to be a minimum of 85% of domestic consumption (previously was a set amount)
 - Provides continued support for the U.S. sugar producers with the marketing allotment program.
 - Requires USDA to set marketing allotments "for domestic human consumption" of sugar for the 2008-12 crop years. Sugar sold "for uses other than domestic human consumption" would be excluded from the limits.
 - One provision of the proposed sugar program said if USDA awards surplus sugar as a reward to growers who agree to reduce production of sugarcane and beets that are already planted, the sugar from those fields can only be used as a bioenergy feedstock.
 - Would allow USDA to purchase raw, refined or in-process sugar from growers and sell it to bioenergy producers if it would help the sugar program operate at no net cost. The provision is part of a "wish list" of projects that may be added to the new farm law.
- **Dairy provisions**
 - Extends the Milk Income Loss Contract Program until 2012.
 - Supports the price of cheddar cheese, butter, and nonfat dry milk by government purchase of such products.
 - Allows for the Dairy Forward Pricing Program allowing milk producers and cooperatives to voluntarily enter into forward contracts with milk handlers.
 - Expands markets for domestic milk producers by extending the Dairy Export Incentive Program
 - Brings dairy product importers into the dairy research and promotion checkoff program.

II. Conservation

- **Changes administration of several conservation programs**

- Moves administration of conservation programs currently under the Natural Resources Conservation Service to Farm Service Agency

- **Changes the Structure of the Conservation Security Program (CSP)**

- Collapses the three tiered system and replaces the structure with an annual stewardship enhancement payment to compensate producers for new and ongoing implementation and maintenance of conservation practices and activities.
- Allows for contract modification of existing contracts for farmers participating under the old CSP program.
- Prohibits new enrollments until after 2012.
- Implements a \$150,000 payment limit over 5 years

- **Extends and Increases Funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
 - Increases funding for EQIP by \$2 billion by 2012.
 - Includes the promotion of forest management and energy conservation in the EQIP program goals, while continuing to allocate 60% of the program funds for livestock producers.
 - Expands the activities for which a producer can receive incentive payments to include technical services that could benefit fruit and vegetable producers.
 - Changes the evaluation process for EQIP applications to give priority to address State, regional or local resource concerns.
 - Allows for applications that address similar agriculture operations to be considered together.

- **Extends the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**
 - Authorizes 39.2 million acres to be enrolled in the program through 2012.
 - Includes a new provision to allow retired landowners participating in CRP to modify their contracts if the land is being transferred to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.

- **Renews & Expands the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**
 - Provides \$1.6 billion to reestablish a baseline and extend the program through 2012.
 - Adds 1.5 million acres to the program, bringing the total acres allowed in the program to 3.775 million acres, which will include 10,000 acres of floodplain easements each year.
 - Provides payments for wetlands maintenance activities on up to 1.5 million acres
 - Directs USDA to determine the fair market value when evaluating appraisals that are used for payment offers, potentially increasing rental rates.

- **Continues and Funds Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)**
 - Provides \$20 million per year for CIG from 2008-2012.
 - Establishes a comprehensive conservation planning pilot for the Chesapeake Bay
 - Provides funds for outreach to fruit, vegetable and organic producers

- **Creates a New Regional Water Enhancement Program (RWEPP)**
 - Authorizes this new program and funds it at \$60 million per year from 2008-2012.
 - Allows cooperative agreements between the Secretary and agriculture producers or non-federal governmental entities to improve regional water quality or quantity in priority areas, including the Chesapeake Bay, Klamath, Everglades, and Upper Mississippi River Basin.

- **Extends and Increases Funding for Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)**
 - Increases funding for FRPP by \$300 million by 2012.
 - Establishes a more user-friendly certification process that will determine eligibility for program funds.

- **Provides New Resources to Protect the Chesapeake Bay Region**
 - Includes \$25 million for a Chesapeake Bay pilot program for comprehensive conservation planning to help producers find cost effective strategies to address resource concerns.
 - Includes \$150 million for river restoration projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to improve water quality, and restore and enhance wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Renews & Funds the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program (SWRP)**
 - Provides \$200 million to create a baseline for program funding and extends the program through 2012.
- **Extends the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**
- **Continues and Expands the Grassland Reserve Program**
 - Extends the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), which offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property.
 - **If costs can be offset, increases enrollment in the program by 5 million acres.**
 - Allows for third party ownership, negotiation and enforcement in GRP.
 - Places an emphasis on long-term benefits for grasslands.

III. Trade

- **Increases the availability and viability of American products in foreign markets.**
 - Increases funding for the Market Access Program by \$125 million over 5 years to \$225 million.
 - Extends the Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program which works to expand US export opportunities. Funding for the FMD Program is continued at the current year level of \$34.5 million annually for FY 2008 through FY 2012.
 - Increases the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops to address sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers
- **Reforms the Export Credit Guarantee Programs to bring them into compliance with World Trade Organization agreements.**
 - Decreases repayment periods in the Export Credit Guarantee Programs.
 - Lifts the fee cap of 1% on the GSM-102 program.
 - Eliminates long term export credit (the GSM-103 program).
- **Continues fight child hunger and improve education around the world.**
 - Reauthorizes the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. **If costs can be offset, the 2007 Farm Bill will increase funding for the McGovern-Dole program.**
 - Increases ability of the Agency for International Development to pre-position food around the world to get food aid to people faster.
 - Increases oversight and monitoring of food aid programs to increase efficiency and ensure effectiveness.

IV. Nutrition

- **Continues food and nutrition programs.**
 - Extends the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provides commodities and other assistance to states and helps stock food banks and homeless shelters and the Puerto Rico and American Samoa Block Grant Program, and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), each of which operate in lieu of the Food Stamp Program in territories and on reservations.

- **Changes the Food Stamp Program**
 - Renames the Food Stamp Program the “Secure Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.”
 - De-obligates Food Stamp Coupons and requires the use of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards.
 - Strengthens the ability of USDA to punish violators.

- **Ensures that Senior Citizens have ample access to food.**
 - Extends the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) which helps many low-income elderly individuals that need additional assistance or are reluctant to apply for food stamps.
 - Expands the authority of the Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program which provides senior citizens with vouchers to buy fresh produce at markets and roadside stands.

- **Promotes the health and well-being of children.**
 - Extends the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DOD Fresh) which provides a greater variety of fresh produce to schools.
 - Continues the USDA Snack Program, which helps schools provide healthy snacks to students during after-school activities and expands the program to all 50 states.

- **Reforms benefit rules to adequately cover food expenses.**
 - **If the costs can be offset, the 2007 Farm Bill would:**
 - **End Benefit Erosion and increase the minimum benefit.**
 - **Raise and Index the Minimum Standard Deduction.**
 - **Index Asset Limits and exclude Retirement and Education Accounts as assets.**
 - **Lift Dependent Care Cap**
 - **Exclude Special Combat Pay as Income**

V. Credit

- **Expands Credit Availability for Farmers and Ranchers**
 - Increases the farm ownership loan limit and the operating loan limit to \$300,000 from the current level of \$200,000 per borrower.

- **Establishes a loan guarantee program to help farmers carry out conservation programs**
 - Creates a program that allows USDA to provide loans to farmers and ranchers to carry out conservation projects

- **Requires the Secretary, when making or guaranteeing loans for soil and water conservation and protection to give priority to:**
 - 1) Qualified beginning farmers or ranchers;
 - 2) Socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;
 - 3) Producers who use the loans to build conservation structures or establish conservation practices.
- **Modifies lending authority for the Farm Credit System**
 - Expands lending opportunities, but only to agribusinesses in the renewable energy sector and to single family home loan borrowers in communities of 6,000 population and under.
- **Prioritizes Socially Disadvantaged and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in Credit Programs**
 - Increases the amount of direct farm ownership loans, guaranteed farm ownership loans, direct farm ownership loans reserved for down payment and direct operating loans for beginning farmers and ranchers.
 - Makes adjustments to the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Down Payment Loan Program, including fixing the interest rate at 4% below the regular direct farm ownership loan interest rates or 1%, whichever is greater; maximum allowable sales price is increased from \$250,000 to \$500,000; the borrower down payment requirement is reduced to not less than 5%; the FSA portion is increased to 45%; and the term of the loan is changed from 15 years to 20 years; and Socially Disadvantaged farmers and ranchers are also made eligible for the program
 - Restores priority given to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers whenever the Secretary of Agriculture sells or leases property.
 - Extends the right of first refusal to reacquire a homestead property to members for the immediate family member of borrower-owners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.
- **Expands the Land Contract Pilot Program**
 - Extends the current 2-year limit on payment guarantees to 3 years.
 - Provides land sellers the option of choosing either the 3 year guarantee or a standard 90% guarantee
 - Makes Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers eligible for the program

VI. Rural Development

- **Requires Secretary to assess rural definitions:**
 - Requires the Secretary to assess the varying definitions of rural used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and to make recommendations to Congress to better target funds through rural development programs.
- **Adjusts Health Care, Emergency, and First Responder Needs of Rural Areas:**
 - Authorizes the Rural Firefighters and Emergency Medical Service Assistance Program to provide improved emergency medical services in rural areas.
 - Creates a new grant program to assist rural health facilities in the key areas of health information technology and quality improvement.
 - Expands 9-1-1 access in rural areas by making telephone loans to public entities for facilities and equipment.

- Provides grants for weather radio transmitters to increase coverage of rural areas by the emergency weather broadcast system.
- **Connects Rural America with the Rest of the World:**
 - The bill extends and makes significant changes to the existing broadband program. Targets rural areas already lacking in broadband coverage.
 - Authorizes the Community Connect Grant Program to provide grants to finance broadband transmission in rural areas to currently unserved rural communities.
 - Authorizes a technology transfer program that provides technical information and resources for farmers practicing or transitioning to sustainable and organic farming practices.
- **Creates a new Rural Entrepreneur and Microenterprise Assistance Program**
 - Provides technical and financial assistance to micro-enterprises and small businesses in rural areas with less than 10 employees.
- **Extends many existing Rural Economic Development programs**
 - Extends the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant program and establishes a 10% set-aside for beginning farmers and ranchers.
 - Extends Rural Business Opportunity Grants for job training in rural areas.
 - Extends Rural Cooperative Development Grants, a competitive program that establishes and operates centers for rural cooperative development.
 - Extends the Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program, which provides technical assistance, outreach, and business and marketing planning to increase the viability, growth, and sustainability of value-added agricultural businesses.
- **Renews Critical Infrastructure That Works For Rural America:**
 - Renews Water and Waste Disposal Grants and Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Programs to help reduce water and waste disposal operating costs for rural areas and towns.
 - Renews the Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program to provide technical assistance to communities that have had a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water.
 - Provides grants to qualified non-profit organizations for the construction of household water well systems in low-income areas.
- **Regional Partnerships**
 - Extends the Delta Regional Authority, a federal-state partnership that has funded 334 projects in its first five years and led to the investment of more than \$750 million in the region.
 - Extends and enhances the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority by enhancing flexibility for the Authority as well as including renewable energy projects among the target funding areas.
 - Establishes a National Board on Rural America that is to make planning and innovation grants to certified Regional Investment Boards.

VII. Research

- **Creates a National Agriculture Research Program Office (National Program Office)**
 - This new office will coordinate the programs and activities of USDA's research agencies in an effort to minimize duplication and maximize coordination at all levels

- Creates 6 Program Offices within the National Program Office. Each Program Office will have a Director to help formulate programs, develop planning and priorities for agriculture research, and help coordinate and track research activities related to agriculture research.
- Six Program Offices:
- Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment
 - Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
 - Plant Health and Production Protection
 - Animal Health and Production Protection
 - Agriculture Systems and Technology
 - Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities
- **Requires the President to submit to Congress a single line item reflecting the total amount requested for agriculture research programs**
 - Currently, funding is spread among various agencies, making it a challenge to track the total amount of federal investment in agriculture research activities.
 - **Preserves Authority for Core Formula Programs for State Level Research and Extension**
 - Continues programs established under the Hatch Act of 1887 and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914.
 - Encourages additional funding for Historically Black Colleges (the 1890 institutions), Native American Colleges (the 1994 institutions), and small land grant universities.
 - **Establishes an Office to administer competitive grants**
 - **Expands access to funding, authority and eligibility for research and extension dollars for Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges**
 - Creates an endowment fund, institutional capacity building program to promote agriculture and sciences, and competitive grant proposal for Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges
 - Expands extension capabilities for Hispanic Serving Institutions
 - Amends existing authorities to ensure that Hispanic Serving Institutions are eligible for such programs as the International Ag Research and Extension Program
 - **Creates high priority research initiatives for research related to specialty crop production, bioenergy and biobased products.**

VI. Forestry

Forest planning

- Sets national private forest conservation priorities
- Directs states to conduct assessments of current forest resources.
- Requires states to develop a long-term strategy for forest resource management.
- **Modifies and extends several existing programs.**
 - Improves cooperation between the government, private landowners and the conservation community in the newly renamed Forest Resource Coordinating Committee.
 - Reauthorizes the Office of International Forestry.
 - Extends the successful Healthy Forest Reserve Program.

- Continues the Emergency Forestry Conservation Program for non-industrial forest lands.
- Reauthorizes Rural Revitalization Technologies to address the use of forest biomass in energy production.
- Establishes a grant program to recruit and train Hispanics and underserved groups for careers in forestry and related fields.

IX. Energy

- **Provides Loan Guarantees for Biorefineries and Biofuels Production Plants**
 - If costs can be offset, provides up to \$2 billion in loan guarantee authority for biorefineries, with half going to loans less than \$100 million, and the other half for loans up to \$250 million.
- **Continues Funding for the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program**
 - If costs can be offset, provides \$10 million to continue the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program as funding is made available. The program awards competitive grants to nonprofit organizations that educate governmental and private entities operating vehicle fleets, and educate the public about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use and was funded the program at \$5 million from 2003-2007.
- **Increases Funding for the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Improvements Program (known as Section 9006)**
 - If costs can be offset, provides \$500 million for the Renewable Energy & Efficiency Improvements Program, to be renamed the Rural Energy for America Program. (Current law provided \$115 million over 5 years.) Allows for feasibility studies to be eligible for the program.
 - Takes loan guarantee level from \$10 million to \$25 million.
 - Grant funds may be used to pay up to 25% of the project costs. Combined grants and loans or loan guarantees may fund up to 75% of the project cost.
 - Eligible projects include those that derive energy from wind, solar, biomass, or geothermal sources. Projects using energy from those sources to produce hydrogen from biomass or water are also eligible.
- **Improves and Increases Funding for the Bioenergy Program**
 - If costs can be offset, provides \$1.5 billion to continue the Bioenergy Program, which provides production incentives for increases in production of ethanol and biodiesel made from agricultural and forestry crops and associated waste materials, including animal manure and livestock/food processing waste.
 - Expands eligibility for combined heat and power production using biomass at biofuels plants and biomass gasification as eligible types of bioenergy that could receive the production incentive.
- **Creates a Biomass Energy Reserve Program to Develop the Next Generation of Feedstocks for Renewable Energy**
 - If costs can be offset, will establish a program to encourage the production of feedstocks for cellulosic ethanol and other energy production and provides for 5 year contracts for producers to grow dedicated energy crops. The bill provides for an incentive for producers to harvest, store, and transport biomass to bioenergy facilities. As emerging technology allows the use of various cellulosic feedstocks, including corn stover, wheat straw, switchgrass, sweet sorghum, woody biomass and other products to produce ethanol and other energy sources, it is important to

develop production of these feedstocks. By establishing a program to encourage the production of feedstocks, farmers will learn how to plant, cultivate, harvest and transport these feedstocks in a cost-effective manner.

- **Continues to Promote the Federal Procurement of Biobased Products**
 - If costs can be offset, would clarify that products with at least five percent of intermediate ingredients and feedstocks that are biobased should be considered under the preference.
 - Requires USDA to complete rulemaking on labeling regulation.
 - Provides \$10 million for the testing and labeling of biobased products and for expanding awareness of the BioPreferred Program
- **Establishes a Forest Bioenergy Research Program**
 - If costs can be offset, would provide \$75 million to create a program to address the specific issues facing the use of woody biomass for bioenergy production, including feedstock issues such as yield and new varieties.
- **Extends the Biomass Research and Development Program**

If costs can be offset, would extend the Biomass Research and Development Program (Section 9008) through 2012 and provides \$500 million to fund it. The program provides competitive funding for research and development projects on biofuels and bio-based chemicals and products, administered jointly by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy.

X. **Horticulture and Organic Agriculture**

- **Funds the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**
 - Provides mandatory funding that would support expansion of the specialty crop block grant program, rather than current funding which depends on annual appropriations.
 - Increases funding over the term of the farm bill from \$40 million in FY 2008 to \$75 million in FY 2012.
- **Provides new funding to support organic farmers**
 - Provides \$22 million in mandatory funding for USDA's cost-share program.
 - Provides \$3 million in mandatory funds for organic marketing data collection and publication
- **Extends the Farmers' Market Promotion Program**
 - Continues the Farmers' Market Promotion Program, which provides funding to expand opportunities for direct producer-to-consumer marketing and provides \$32 million in mandatory money for the program.
- **Doubles the amount of USDA purchases of Fruits and Vegetables using Section 32 funds**
 - Expands the USDA's purchases of fruits, vegetables, and nuts by about \$200 million per year.

- **Helps Fruit and Vegetable Producers address food safety, pest and disease management issues**
 - Authorizes USDA to approve producers' requests to include in marketing orders good handling practices and other methods for ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of specialty crops.
 - Directs USDA to develop assessments of pest and disease threats and to establish priorities for defeating them.
 - Provides money and outlines a plan for new programs of joint action between Federal and State governments to provide for early detection and surveillance of plant pests and diseases. The funding levels increases from \$10 million in FY 2008 to \$100 million in FY 2012.
 - Establishes proactive, cooperative, audit-based certification systems between USDA, States, and growers to address plant pest infestations.
 - Provides \$200 million in mandatory funding for pest and disease detection and control.

- **Continues support for Beekeepers and prioritizes research on Colony Collapse Disorder**
 - Supports beekeepers by extending the honey marketing loan.
 - Requires USDA to continue research to identify causes and solutions to address Colony Collapse Disorder in honey bees.

- **Returns border inspections for imported agricultural products from the Department of Homeland Security back to USDA**
 - Returns responsibility for inspections of imported agricultural products to USDA. The responsibility for inspecting imported agricultural products was transferred from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to the Department of Homeland Security when it was established in 2002.

XI. **Miscellaneous Provisions**

- Provides option to purchase supplemental insurance coverage based on area yield and loss plan of insurance or an area revenue plan of insurance.
- Calls for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to development improvements in crop insurance policies for the purpose of covering organic crops and submit to Congress an annual report on progress made in this area.
- Targets risk management education for certain farmers and ranchers who are beginning farmers and ranchers, immigrant farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, farmers and ranchers who are preparing to retire and farmers and ranchers who are looking for new markets.
- Prohibits federal crop insurance coverage on noncropland that has not been planted for any five years since the 1986 crop year or three consecutive years since the 1986 crop year for the first four years of planting.
- Requires the Secretary to establish and carry out a pilot program for multi-peril crop insurance for producers of non-dehiscent sesame.
- Amends the Packers and Stockyards Act to allow for arbitration to resolve controversies, providing that both parties consent to such in writing.

- Designates Kansas, Virginia and Florida as separate cotton-producing states for the purposes of the Cotton Research and Promotion Act.
- Provides \$15 million in mandatory CCC funding to provide outreach and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.
- Provides \$15 million in mandatory funding to conduct a beginning farmer and rancher development program
- Allows the Secretary to make excess or surplus computers or other technical equipment from USDA available to any city or town located in a rural area.