

## **Hillary Clinton on Ag and Rural issues:**

### **Animal rights:**

Clinton was an advocate for animal welfare when she served in the Senate, earning ratings from the Humane Society of the United States of [75 percent](#) and [83 percent](#) respectively, her last two years in the chamber.

As a senator, she co-sponsored the [Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act](#) to ban the slaughter of livestock unable to walk and [amendments to the Horse Protection Act](#) to prevent slaughtering horses for human consumption.

### **Biotechnology**

In a [2014 speech](#) to the Biotechnology Industry Organization, Clinton endorsed the use of agricultural biotechnology. "I stand in favor of using seeds and products that have a proven track record. ... There's a big gap between what the facts are and what the perceptions are."

She noted that when she was secretary of state, the State Department encouraged other countries to allow the use of genetically engineered crops. However she said that winning acceptance for biotechnology takes a "painstaking farmer by farmer, government by government effort."

She also said that industry needed to improve its communication about the technology. "'Genetically modified' sounds Frankenstein-ish. Drought-resistance sounds like something you want."

### **Environmental/ Regulatory issues EPA:**

Clinton's [climate policy](#) includes a pledge to defend the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which imposes controls on carbon emissions from electric utilities.

She also has proposed to negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Mexico and Canada that would contain "ambitious national targets, coordinated policy approaches, and strong accountability measures to catalyze clean energy deployment, reduce energy costs, cut greenhouse gas emissions, guide infrastructure investment, and make our integrated energy and vehicle markets cleaner and more efficient."

She stopped short of proposing a tax on carbon to lower emissions. She supported a cap-and-trade program during her presidential campaign in 2008. Her current policy relies on providing grants and other incentives to increase renewable energy usage, and she would create a National Infrastructure Bank for funding energy projects and other needs. She also would use USDA's Rural Utilities Service to promote renewable energy development.

She has set a goal of generating enough "clean renewable energy to power every home in America" within 10 years of her taking office. She is proposing to increase solar power capacity by 700 percent by 2020.

### **Farm Bill:**

Clinton voted for the final version of the [2002 farm bill](#) and voted to override a presidential veto of the [2008 legislation](#). (She did not vote on the 2008 farm bill conference report.) During debate on the 2002 bill, she was also part of an informal group of eastern senators known as the [Eggplant Caucus](#) that advocated for reform of farm programs. The senators [pushed to expand farm program benefits](#) beyond traditional Midwestern and southern row crops.

Clinton, who was campaigning for president at the time, [said the 2008 farm bill](#) would help to revitalize rural America, provide a safety net for our family farms, and bolster nutrition programs for needy families across the country. The bill includes new reforms to farm subsidies, along with disaster relief, country of origin labeling, support for renewable energy advances and resources to deploy broadband in rural areas.

Clinton's [rural development policy](#) would build off farm bill programs and includes increased funding for beginning farmers and local food production. According to her campaign, Clinton is pledging to expand funding for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development program as well as the Farmers Market Promotion Program and the Local Food Promotion Program to expand food hubs, farmers markets and encourage direct sales to local schools, hospitals, retailers and wholesalers. She also will "ensure the definition of 'actively engaged' in production agriculture is not overly broad and subject to abuse."

The campaign also promises to "fully fund a program that provides assistance to producers who conserve and improve natural resources on their farms," a reference to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and to double loan guarantees for bio-based products.

### **Immigration and labor:**

As a senator in 2007 she cosponsored the [Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security \(AgJOBS\) Act](#), which would have streamlined and expanded the H-2A agricultural visa program and allowed farmworkers who are in the country illegally to become permanent residents through continued agricultural work. The H-2A program

Clinton supports President Obama's DACA and DAPA programs that would defer action against some children and adults who are in the country illegally. She wants to allow illegal immigrants to qualify for health insurance via the Affordable Care Act exchanges. She also supports providing illegal immigrants with a path to citizenship.

"As president, Hillary will fight for comprehensive immigration reform that provides a full and equal path to citizenship, treats every person with dignity, upholds the rule of law, protects our borders and national security, and brings millions of hardworking people into the formal economy." - [campaign policy statement](#).

### **RFS:**

Clinton supports the Renewable Fuel Standard.

“The Renewable Fuel Standard can continue to be a powerful tool to spur the development of advanced biofuels and expand the overall contribution that renewable fuels make to our national fuel supply,” [Clinton wrote in a guest editorial](#).

“But we also can’t ignore significant changes to the energy landscape since the RFS was expanded in 2007. We have to get the RFS back on track in a way that provides investors with the certainty they need, protects consumers, improves access to E15, E85, and biodiesel blends, and effectively drives the development of cellulosic and other advanced biofuels.”

She would create a Strategic Energy Fund that would provide \$50 billion for research, development and deployment of renewable energy, energy efficiency, ethanol, and other homegrown biofuels.

### **Rural development**

Clinton’s [rural policy](#) calls for increased funding for beginning farmers and local food production. “Hillary will increase funding to support the next generation of farmers and ranchers, invest in expanding local food markets and regional food systems, and provide a focused safety net to assist family operations that truly need support during challenging times.”

### **Trade:**

Clinton opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership. [She said it didn’t include acceptable provisions](#) to combat currency manipulation, and that pharmaceutical companies would unfairly gain from the agreement at the expense of consumers.

“I have said from the very beginning that we had to have a trade agreement that would create good American jobs, raise wages and advance our national security. I still believe that’s the high bar we have to meet,” she said.

### **Taxes:**

She has pledged not to raise taxes on families making under \$200,000 a year. “Because I don’t think we should be imposing new big programs that are going to raise middle class families’ taxes,” she said during [the third Democratic debate in December 2015](#). “We just heard that most families haven’t had a wage increase since 2001. Since, you know, the end of the last Clinton administration when incomes did go up for everybody.”

She has proposed increasing taxes on investors. Short-term gains of one to two years would be taxed at 39.6 percent, [according to the Tax Foundation](#). Gains of two to three years would be taxed at 36 percent. The rate would gradually fall to 20 percent on gains of six years or more. Under current law, gains on the sale of assets held more than a year are taxed at 20 percent.

As a senator, Clinton voted against then-President George W. Bush tax cuts in 2001. The legislation lowered all tax rates for individuals, with the top rate dropping from 39.6 percent to 35 percent

In 2005, she voted yes on extending the first round of Bush tax cuts in 2011, some of which were set to expire. While not in favor of the tax cuts for the wealthy and the reduction in the top rate for qualified

dividends and capital gains, Clinton said she voted yes in order to extend increased Section 179 expensing limits and the itemized deduction for state and local sales taxes, while also expanding the AMT exemption to prevent middle-class creep of the alternative minimum tax.

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