

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed 2007 Farm Bill (H.R. 2419)
	dispute. Repeals short-term, open account (non-bank intermediation) guarantees (the Supplier Credit Guarantee Program).
<b>Export Market Promotion and Export Subsidies</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Market Access Program (MAP):</b> Cost-share federal funding of export market development for generic and branded agricultural commodities.</li> <li>2. <b>Foreign Market Development Program (FMDFP):</b> Cost-share federal funding of export market development of mainly generic (bulk) commodities.</li> <li>3. <b>Emerging Markets Program (EMP):</b> A set of programs to promote U.S. agricultural exports in countries taking steps toward market-oriented development of agriculture with potential to become U.S. export markets.</li> <li>4. <b>Export Enhancement Program (EEP):</b> direct export subsidies for U.S. agricultural commodities.</li> </ol>	<p>Extends MAP, FMDFP, EMP, and EEP through 2012.</p> <p>Makes changes to <b>Market Access Program</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Makes organic agricultural commodities eligible for MAP promotions.</li> <li>— Increases MAP funding from \$200 million in FY2007 to \$225 million annually from FY2008-FY2012.</li> </ul>
<b>Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers to U.S. agricultural exports and trade disputes</b>	
Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program provides \$2 million annually to assist in removal of SPS barriers to U.S. agricultural exports	Increases funds for TASC from \$2 million in FY2007 to \$4 million in FY2008; increases to \$10 million annually in FY2011 and FY2012. Authorizes appropriations for technical assistance to limited resource persons and organizations for the resolution of trade disputes and for U.S. representation in international standard setting bodies.
<b>TITLE IV: Nutrition</b>	
<b>Extension of Expiring Authorities</b>	
All nutrition program authorities (e.g., authorizations for appropriations) expire at the end of FY2007.	Extends all expiring authorities through FY2012.
<b>Renaming the Food Stamp Program</b>	
No similar provision.	Renames the Food Stamp Program as the Secure Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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<b>Increased Food Stamp Benefits</b>	
<p>When calculating food stamp benefits, a portion of recipient's income is disregarded — (1) a "standard deduction" (typically, \$134/month) and (2) dependent care expenses (limited to \$175-\$200/month, depending on dependent's age). A portion of other expenses (e.g., shelter costs) also is disregarded. Disregarding income has the effect of increasing food stamp benefits. Minimum benefits for 1- and 2-person households set at \$10/month.</p>	<p>Increases the standard deduction to \$145 and indexes it. Removes the limits on dependent care expense deductions. Disregards combat-related military pay. Increases minimum benefits to 10% of the value of the maximum food stamp benefit for a 1-person household (an increase estimated to average \$8 a month over the life of the farm bill).</p>
<b>Liberalized Food Stamp Asset Eligibility Standards</b>	
<p>Households eligible for food stamp benefits must have liquid assets of less than \$2,000 (or \$3,000 for those with elderly/disabled members). The dollar limit is not indexed, and some retirement plans/savings and all savings for postsecondary education are counted as assets. A household's home, personal belongings, furnishings, and (in most cases) the value of its vehicle are not counted.</p>	<p>Indexes the dollar limits on liquid assets. Disregards all retirement plans/savings and postsecondary education savings.</p>
<b>"Privatization" of Food Stamp Program Administration</b>	
<p>State "merit-system" employees must certify eligibility for food stamps.</p>	<p>Places substantial new limits on the ability of states to "privatize" (e.g., contract out) administration of the Food Stamp program.</p>
<b>The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)</b>	
<p>TEFAP has mandatory funding of \$140 million a year to acquire commodities for distribution through emergency feeding organizations.</p>	<p>Increases the mandatory funding level for TEFAP to \$250 million a year (indexed to food prices).</p>
<b>Fruits and Vegetables</b>	
<p>Provides for a pilot project — operating in 14 states and on 3 Indian reservations and funded at \$15 million (FY2007). About 400 schools offer free fresh fruits and vegetables to their students. Sets aside \$50 million a year in school meal program funding for a transfer to the Department of Defense for a "DoD Fresh" program through which fresh fruits and</p>	<p>Increases (to \$70 million a year) funding for the fresh fruit and vegetable project and makes it available in all states (although not all schools). Increases (to \$75 million a year) the set-aside for the DoD Fresh program.</p>

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vegetables are made available to schools as part of their school meal entitlement.	
<b>Geographic Preference</b>	
Schools receiving meal assistance and the DoD Fresh program generally are prohibited from specifying a geographic preference when they procure food items.	Generally overrides rules that limit the extent to which schools and the DoD Fresh program can specify a geographic preference (e.g., for locally produced food items) in their procurements.
<b>TITLE V: Agricultural Credit</b>	
<b>1. USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loan Programs</b>	
<b>a. Maximum lending limit</b>	
\$200,000 per borrower for direct farm ownership loans (dating from 1984) and \$200,000 for direct operating loans (dating from 1986).	Increases lending limits per farmer to \$300,000 for direct farm ownership loans and \$300,000 for direct operating loans
<b>b. Beginning and socially-disadvantaged farmers</b>	
Reserves part of the loan volume for beginning farmers: 70% of direct farm ownership loans, 35% of direct operating loans, 25% of guaranteed ownership loans, and 40% of guaranteed farm operating loans. Funds also targeted to “socially disadvantaged” farmers based on race, gender, and ethnicity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Further prioritizes lending for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers by increasing the amounts reserved for these groups.</li> <li>— Extends the right of first refusal to reacquire a homestead property to the family of a socially disadvantaged borrower-owner.</li> <li>— Restores priority given to socially disadvantaged farmers whenever the USDA sells or leases property.</li> </ul>
<b>c. Conservation loan guarantee program</b>	
No provision.	Creates a special loan guarantee program for soil and water conservation and protection projects that gives priority to qualified beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and producers who use the loans to build conservation structures or establish conservation practices.
<b>d. Term limits</b>	
Term limits require farmers to graduate from FSA credit to commercial lenders. Farmers are eligible for direct operating loans for seven years, and guaranteed operating loans for 15 years. Current law suspends enforcement of term limits on	Extends, but only until Jan. 1, 2008, the suspension of the enforcement of term limits.