Summary of the Senate Agriculture Committee 2012 Farm Bill mark

The Senate Agriculture Committee's Farm Bill mark that was released April 20 is 900 pages long. This brief summary is intended to point out some of the major changes and not to be all inclusive of the proposed legislative reforms.

Title I: Commodity title:

Direct Payments, counter-cyclical payments, the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program are eliminated after 2012.

Creates a new Average Risk Coverage (ARC) program which covers planted acres for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, long grain rice, medium grain rice, pulse crops, soybeans, other oilseeds and peanuts. To be eligible, producers must meet conservation and wetland protection requirements.

The program has two tiers: During 2013 – 2017, producers must make a one-time, irrevocable election to receive either individual coverage or county coverage (in counties with sufficient data) that is applicable to all acres. If the control of those acres changes, then so can the election.

Payments would be made when the actual crop revenue for the covered commodity in any one year is less than the agricultural risk coverage guarantee. The ARC guarantee is 89% of the benchmark revenue. The bill directs the Secretary to make a separate ARC guarantee for irrigated and non-irrigated commodities.

The actual crop revenue is the yield multiplied by the higher of the midseason price (midseason price is the national average market price received by producers for the first five months of the marketing year) or the national marketing assistance loan rate for the covered commodity. The actual average individual yield will be determined by the Secretary, as will the actual average yield for the county for the covered commodity.

For individual coverage, the average individual yield, as determined by the Secretary, would be based on an Olympic average: the most recent 5 years, excluding the highest and lowest yields. Individual coverage is the total acreage in a county of the covered commodity that is planted or intended to be planted

For the county coverage, the rate would be based on the average historical county yield, as determined by the Secretary, for the most recent 5 years, excluding the highest and lowest yield years. There is a provision for a transitional yield at 60% for 2012 and 70% for 2013 and after.

The payment rate equals the lesser of the amount that the ARC guarantee exceeds the actual crop revenue for the crop year or 10% of the benchmark revenue for the crop of the covered commodity.

The ARC payment rate will be multiplied by a lower rate for those who selected individual coverage: 60% for planted acres and 45% for acres prevented from being planted. For those who select county coverage, payments would be made on 75% of planted acres and 45% of prevented plantings.

County level covers all acreage in a county that is planted or intended to be planted by a producer. The yield is determined by the average county yield. The total number of eligible acres shall not exceed the average total acres planted or prevented from being planted to the covered crops for the 2009 through 2012 crop years.

However, the Secretary can make adjustments for cases where:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land is released
- The Secretary designates additional oilseeds
- A producer has land not cropped but placed into an annual rotation for conservation purposes

Nonrecourse marketing assistance loans will be available for covered commodities with a 9-month term Producers will have to meet conservation and wetland protection requirements to be eligible.

Special rules apply to peanuts. A marketing assistance loan can be obtained through a designated marketing cooperative approved by the Secretary or the Farm Service Agency. For peanuts under loan, the Secretary shall pay handling and associated costs (other than storage) incurred at the time at which the peanuts are placed under loan. But repayment of handling and other costs is required for all peanuts pledged as collateral for a loan that's redeemed.

Loan rates remain basically the same:

Wheat, $2.94 per bushel.
Corn, $1.95 per bushel
Grain sorghum, $1.95 per bushel.
Barley, $1.95 per bushel.
Oats, $1.39 per bushel.
Upland cotton, for the 2013 and each subsequent crop year, the simple average of the adjusted prevailing world price for the 2 immediately preceding marketing years, as determined by the Secretary and announced October 1 preceding the next domestic plantings, but in no case less than $0.47 per pound or more than $0.52
per pound.
Extra long staple cotton, $0.7977 per pound.
Long grain rice, $6.50 per hundredweight.
Medium grain rice, $6.50 per hundredweight.
Soybeans, $5.00 per bushel.
Other oilseeds, $10.09 per hundredweight for each of the following kinds of oilseeds:

(A) Sunflower seed.
(B) Rapeseed.
(C) Canola.
(D) Safflower.
(E) Flaxseed.
(F) Mustard seed.
(G) Crambe.
(H) Sesame seed.
(I) Other oilseeds designated by the Secretary
Dry peas, $5.40 per hundredweight
Lentils, $11.28 per hundredweight
Small chickpeas, $7.43 per hundredweight
Large chickpeas, 11.28 per hundredweight
Grade wool, $1.15 per lb.
Nongraded wool, $0.40 per lb.
Mohair, $4.20 per lb.
Honey, $0.69 per lb.
Peanuts, $355 per ton

For most commodities, loans can be repaid at the lesser of the loan rate plus interest or at a rate calculated by the Secretary which is based on average market prices for the loan commodity during the preceding 30-day period or at an alternative rate determined by the Secretary.

For upland cotton, long grain rice and medium grain rice, loans can be repaid at the lesser of the loan rate plus interest or the prevailing world market price, adjusted for quality and location. For ELS cotton, the repayment should be at the loan rate plus interest.

Cotton storage payments will be available at the same rates as the Secretary provided for the 2006 cotton crops, with rates reduced by 20%

Producers who would be eligible for a loan deficiency payment for wheat, barley or oats and triticale, but elect to use for livestock grazing instead can enter into an agreement with the Secretary for a payment if he or she agrees to forgo harvesting on that acreage. Crop insurance indemnity payments and Noninsured crop assistance payments on that same acreage would be prohibited.

Sugar

The sugar program is continued.

Dairy

The draft incorporates most of the National Milk Producers Federation's Foundation for the Future plan on margin protection and market stabilization, but does not include any changes to milk marketing orders. Repeals the dairy product price support, milk income loss contract program (after2013) and the dairy export incentive program. Extends the dairy forward pricing program and dairy indemnity program to 2017.

Creates a new Dairy Production Margin Protection and Dairy Market Stabilization Programs. Anyone who signs up in the basic production margin protection program also participates in the Stabilization program.

To participate, dairy operations would be required to pay an annual administration fee, depending on pounds marketed. User fees shall be used to cover the costs of the program, reporting of dairy market news, and related costs. Exceptions can be made for limited-resource dairies.

Pounds Marketed (in millions	Administration Fee
Less than 1	$100
1 to 5	$250
More than 5 to 10	$350
More than 10 to 40	$1,000
More than 40	$2,500

The bill allows for a transition period between the existing Milk Income Loss program and the new production margin protection program, under which a dairy operation could elect to participate in either program.

The Secretary will calculate the actual dairy production margins for each month. Dairy operations would be paid when actual dairy production margins are less than the threshold levels and if supplemental margin protection payments have been purchased.

Actual dairy production margin is the difference between the all-milk price (average price received, per hundredweight, by dairies for all milk sold to plants and dealers in the U.S.) and the average feed costs (the average cost of feed used by a dairy to produce a hundredweight of milk). The average is the sum of the product by multiplying 1.0728 by the price of corn per bushel; multiplying 00735 by the price of soybean meal per ton; and by multiplying .0137 by the price of alfalfa per ton. Prices are calculated for consecutive 2-month periods.

Production history is equal to the highest annual milk marketings of the dairy operation during any 1 of the 3 calendar years immediately preceding the calendar year in which the dairy operation first signed up to participate in the production margin protection program. New dairy operation can elect one of two methods to determine history. Once the history is set, it cannot be changed for purposes of determining margin protection.

For the supplemental margin protection, the annual production history is equal to the milk marketings of the dairy operation during the preceding calendar year.

Under the basic margin protection program, payments will be made whenever the actual dairy production margin for a consecutive 2-month period is less than $4.00/cwt. The payment shall equal the product obtained by multiplying the difference between the average actual dairy production margin for the consecutive 2-month period and $4.00, unless the difference is more than $4.00. In that case, the Secretary shall use $4.00 by the lesser of 80% of the production history of the dairy operation divided by 6 or the actual quantity of milk marketed by the operation during the consecutive 2-month period.

Supplemental margin protection can be purchased in increments of $0.50 above the basic margin program, but not to exceed $8.00. Participants can elect a coverage level between 25-90% of the annual production history of the dairy operation. Annual premiums are calculated by multiplying the percentage selected, the annual production history, and the premium per hundredweight of milk. Premiums vary by coverage level and producers who market under 4 million pounds (with about 200 cows) annually pay lower premiums, than those who market more than 4 million pounds.

Participants in the margin protection program are required to participate in the stabilization program. Producers can elect each calendar year which of the two following methods they will use for calculating their volume:

- The volume of the average monthly milk marketings for the three months immediately preceding the announcement by the Secretary that the stabilization program will become effective, or
- The volume of the monthly milk marketings of the diary operation for the same month in the preceding year as the month for which the Secretary announced the stabilization program will become effective.

If the Stabilization program kicks in, margin payments will be reduced for any dairy operation that exceeds their stabilization program base on a sliding scale, based on the production margin.

With one exception, the Stabilization program will be required whenever:

1. The actual dairy production margin has been $6.00 or less per hundredweight of milk for each of the immediately preceding 2 months; or
2. The actual diary production margin has been $4.00 or less per hundredweight of milk for the immediately preceding month.

When the Stabilization program is in effect, handlers must remit the difference between the regular payments and the reduced payments to the Secretary. These funds can be used to make commodity donations to food banks or other programs or to expand consumption and demand for dairy products. However, those programs must be compatible and not duplicate programs supported by the dairy research and promotion board activities.

The Secretary may conduct periodic audits of participating dairy operations and handlers to ensure compliance.

The Mandatory Reporting for Dairy Products section of the Agricultural Marketing Act is strengthened by adding more transparency and requiring more timely reporting.

Creates a clearinghouse for Federal Milk Marketing Order information and requires notification of upcoming referendums.

<u>Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs</u>

The SURE program for commodities is eliminated but programs for livestock are continued. The Livestock Indemnity Payment program is continued with payment rates based on 65% of the applicable livestock value on the day before the death of the livestock.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program is continued with assistance for producers for losses due to fire on public lands. The bill authorizes up to $10 million in Commodity Credit Corporation funds to provide emergency relief to eligible producers of livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions.

A Tree Assistance Program helps eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers hit by natural disasters with over 15% damage. Payments cannot exceed $100,000 for any crop year.

Payment limitations and AGI

The total amount of payments under ARC may not exceed $50,000, but both qualified spouses on a farm can be eligible.

Producers would not be eligible for commodity programs if their adjusted gross income over the 3 taxable years preceding the actual program year exceeds $900,000, including both farm and non-farm income. Currently, the AGI limit stands at $750,000 in on-farm income and $500,000 off-farm.

Conservation Reserve Program

The program is extended through 2017 and the acreage enrollment cap is gradually dropped from 32 million acres in 2012 to 25 million acres in 2017.

Enrollment periods stay the same, but a special rule was added for land devoted to hardwood trees, shelterbelts, windbreaks or wildlife corridors under which the owner or operator can specify the duration of the contract, within certain limitations.

In exchange for a reduction of not less than 25% of the annual rental rate, producers can engage those acres for managed harvesting of biomass and other commercial use, limited grazing, and the installation of wind turbines.

The Transition Incentives Program was reauthorized, which promotes the sale of land coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program to beginning farmers and ranchers. The program was maintained and provided with level funding of $25 million in funding over five years.

Title II: Conservation

Combines 23 current conservation program areas into 13 programs, including:

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is amended and continued. Conservation activities under the program means conservation systems, practices and management measure designed to address one or more priority resource concerns. It also includes structural measures and land management measures, including agricultural drainage management systems.

Between Oct. 1, 2012 and Sept. 30, 2021, the Secretary shall enroll an additional 10,348,000 acres for each fiscal year and achieve a national average rate of $18/acre which includes the costs of all financial assistance, technical assistance and other expenses.

Producers who agree to adopt resource-conserving crop rotations can receive supplemental payments.

Payments to any one person or entity are capped at $200,000 under all contracts between 2013 and 2017.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The program is continued with at least 60% of the funds from 2013 to 2017 to be targeted at practices related to livestock production and at least 5% of the funds targeted at practices benefitting wildlife habitat.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program is now incorporated as a practice area under EQIP.

Funding is set at:
$1,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;
$1,600,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;
$1,650,000,000 for each of fiscal 17 years 2015 through 2017.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

This program incorporates and combines the Wetlands Reserve Progam, the Grasslands Reserve Program and the Farmland Protection Program.

Funding is authorized at:
$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;
$475,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;
$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;
$525,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;
$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2017

In the conservation title, the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program was consolidated into a conservation easement program and renamed the Agricultural Land Easements Program. Most of the program structure remains in place, but there are no specific priorities made for beginning farmers.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

This program combines the agricultural conservation easement program, the Chesapeake Bay watershed program, the cooperative conservation partnership initiative, and the Great Lakes basin program and encourages partners to work across states and regions to achieve conservation goals using the agricultural conservation easement program, the environmental quality incentives program and the conservation stewardship program.

Eligible partners include producers or groups of producers, a state or unit of government, and Indian tribe, a farmer cooperatives, an institution of higher education, and an organization with a history of working with producers on agricultural land.

For 2013 to 2017, Commodity Credit Corporation Funds shall be used for the following:

$25 million authorized to facilitate the transfer of land subject to contracts from retired or retiring owners and operators to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

CCC Funds should be available for technical assistance for implementing authorized conservation programs

Title III - Trade

The Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development programs are extended through 2017 and funded at $200 million and no less than $34.5 million respectfully. The Food for Peace is extended through 2017. There is a limit on the monetization of commodities donated so that no commodity shall be made available unless the rate of the return for the commodity is at least 70%.

Export Credit Guarantee Program extended to 2017.

The Food for Progress Program is extended to 2017.

Specialty crops are authorized to receive $9 million to fight technical barriers to trade for each year 2011 to 2017.

The draft authorizes appropriators to spend $40 million to help procure local and regional food aid. Preference is given to to eligible organizations that have, or are working toward, projects under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program established under section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Calls for a study of programs to support resilence in the Horn of Africa conducted by other donor countries, the World Food Program, multilateral institudions, including the World Bank, and the Agency for International Development. USDA, the Treasury Department, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Peace Corps and other relevant Federal Agencies.

Title IV - Nutrition

Reauthorizes all nutrition programs and tightens the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in several areas.

Tigtens eligibility under the Low Income Heating and Energy Program for the SNAP program.

Ends SNAP eligibility for people who have substantial lottery or gambling winnings.

Retailers would be required to pay 100% of the costs of acquiring and implementing electronic benefit transfer point of sale equipment and supplies.

Manual vouchers will no longer be allowed. If a household makes excessive requests for replacement of the electronic benefit transfer card, the request may be declined.

The bill establishes a pilot program for mobile technology to accept Electronic Benefit Transfer (SNAP or food stamp dollars) at farmers markets and other direct marketing outlets.

Funding of employment and training programs is reduced from $90 million to $79 million.

Additional funds are provided, not less than $5 million annually, to prevent trafficking.

Under Nutrition Education, adds “physical activity” to language that already required education on “healthy food choices.”

Title V. Credit

Continues USDA’s direct and guaranteed loans for farm ownership, operating and conservation and emergency loans.

The Conservation Loan Program was modified to require applicants to be no larger than a family farm and to be unable to obtain credit from private lenders.

Increases the value of land that can be financed under the Down Payment Loan Program to $667,000 and gives the Secretary discretion to determine how many years of managerial experience is required for a beginning farmer to qualify for a direct farm ownership loan.

Authorizes USDA to guarantee a loan for a beginning farmer or rancher or socially disadvantaged farmer and rancher for farm ownership purchases made on contract.

Removes lending limits on USDA’s Farm Service Agency guaranteed loans.

Requires the Secretary to set annual targets for lending to socially disadvantaged borrowers and to report annually to Congress on the progress.

Requires borrowers to obtain at least catastropic risk protection coverage.

A Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot program asks the Secretary to establish 5 year demonstration programs in at least 15 states, under which a qualified entity could establish a reserve fund with a non-Federal match of 50%.

Funding for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program was cut by $25 million.

Military veterans would receive priority for loans.

Title VI – Rural Development

No mandatory funding provided for the Rural Development Title.

The population eligibility cap was raised to towns of 50,000, unless otherwise specified. For example, rural water programs will be targeted at towns with 5,500 or fewer residents.

Makes changes to the Business and Industry lending program

The Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) and Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG) are combined into a single program called Rural Business Development Grants.

The Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program was continued and modified. The program provides business loans up to $50,000 to a rural microenterprise and can provide grants to support training for microentrepreneurs.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) receives a mandatory funding increase from $55 million to $70 million per year.

Authorizes discretionary funding under the Value Added Producer Grants, the Appropriate Technology Transfer Program, and the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans Program to invest in renewable energy and bioenergy projects.

Title VII – Research, Extension and Related Matters

Authorizes a new tax-exempt Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, a public/private foundation to solicit private donations to enhance research for meeting global food demands

Expands State block Grants for Specialty Crops program

Contains a new initiative aimed at improving the data collection efforts regarding local and regional food systems, and also evaluating programs that seek to benefit local food systems.

Authorizes $10 million annually for a program under which the Secretary can make competitive grants designed to address the shortage of veterinarians in the U.S.

Authorizes $5 million in annual funding for farm and rural policy research centers.

Provides $5 million in mandatory funding and $5 million in appropriated funds for the Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives (ODI), and includes a new reporting requirement for USDA to detail how data collection agencies are coordinating with data user agencies on issues like the development of organic price elections

Creates a new food safety training program with an authorization for appropriations of $20 million per year. The new program is created for the purposes of "establishing a Comprehensive Food Safety Training Network."

The Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI), was extended with lower funding of $16 million annually, down from $20 million currently.

The Specialty Crop Research Initiative is reauthorized with permanent funding, starting at a lower annual funding level for a few years but then fully restored to its current level after that phase in period.

The Sun Grant Program (for biomass research and development) is reauthorized without any mention of funding.

Title VIII – Forestry

Repeals the Forest Land Enhancement Program, the Watershed Forestry Assistance Program, the Expired Cooperative National Forest Products Marketing Program, the Hispanic-serving Institution Agricultural Land National Resources Leadership Program and the Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program.

Reauthorizes the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 programs and authorizes appropriations at $55 million annually.

<u>Title IX - Energy</u>

Reauthorizes most of the Energy Title programs with the exception of the Repowering Assistance Program and Forest Biomass for Energy Program. The mark provides no mandatory funding for any Energy Title programs; however it does transfer remaining funding from the Repowering Assistance Program to REAP.

Authorizes appropriations of $2.0 million for the biobased markets program annually over five years, through 2017. The program received $9 million over five years in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Authorizes the Biodiesel Education Program at $1 million for five years.

Authorizes annual appropriations for $150 million for the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical and Biobased Manufacturing Assistance Program.

Authorizes annual appropriations for $20 million for the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels.

Authorizes annual appropriations for $20 million annually for the Rural Energy for American Program

Authorizes annual appropriations for $30 million annually for Biomass Research and Development

Authorizes annual appropriations for $20 million annually for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program. Does not allow any overlap with CRP payments.

Authorizes annual appropriations for $2.0 million for the Community Wood Energy Program

Requires the Secretary to conduct a study to assess the economic impact of the biobased products industry.

Repeals the Forest Biomass for Energy programs and the Repeal of Renewable Fertilizer study.

<u>Title X - Horticulture</u>

Continues an allocation for the Specialty Crops Market News

Repeals section 10002, a grant program to improve movement of specialty crops.

Farmers Market Promotion Program is renamed the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program and authorized at $20 million annually, double the current level.

The Horticulture Title creates a study on local food production and program evaluation.

Funding for Community Food Projects receives an increase of $5 million a year for the next 5 years, above its permanent funding of $5 million a year.

The bill provides mandatory funding for organic certification cost-share, at $11.5 million annually.

Provides level funding at $5 million in mandatory funding (and $5 million in appropriated funds) for the Organic Production and Market Data Initiatives (ODI), and includes a new reporting requirement for USDA to detail how data collection agencies are coordinating with data user agencies.

Includes important modifications to the Organic Agriculture and Research Extension Initiative (OREI) to address emerging research issues such as food safety, rural economic development, and producer research needs to comply with National Organic Program regulations.

Includes $5 million in mandatory funding for technology upgrades and improvements for the National Organic Program.

Title XI - Crop insurance

Includes a Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) whereby program crop producers, as well as producers of specialty crops, could purchase a revenue policy on top of their individual crop insurance coverage to cover all or part of a producer's deductible portion of their individual insurance policy. Coverage would be triggered only if losses exceed 10%. A minimum of 70% of the premium would be subsidized by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

Allows for separate coverage for irrigated and non-irrigated crops for SCO, STAX and enterprise unit crop insurance.

Allows adjustments in actual production history (APH) to establish insurable yields to be based on 70% of the applicable transitional yield, starting in 2013, rather than 60% of the transitional yield.

Directs the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation board to ensure that any Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) negotiated with crop insurance companies be budget neutral and "in no event, may significantly depart from budget neutrality."

If there are any budget savings realized in an SRA renegotiation, the savings shall be used for programs administered by the Risk Management Agency.

Creates a Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX) for producers of Upland Cotton for the 2013 crop. Coverage is deemed to be consistent with the Group Risk Income Protection Plan and the associated Harvest Revenue Option Endorsement offered for the 2011 crop year.

Under STAX, coverage would be provided for losses between 10 and 30% of expected county revenue, specified in increments of 5%. The deductible is the minimum percnet of revenue loss at which indemnities are triggered under the plan, not to be less than 10% of expected county revenue.

Coverage would be based on a price that is the higher of the expected price established under existing GRIP or are wide policies or 65 cents/lb and an expected county yield that is the higher of the expected county yield for existing area plans or the Olympic average of yield data in a county or area for the last 5 years.

The plan also calls for a “protection factor” to establish maximum protection per acre of not less than the higher of the level established on a program wide basis or 120%.

Indemnities under STAX should not include the amount of deductible selected.

A producer who participates in the Supplemental Coverage Option will not be eligible for STAX.

To address World Trade Organization (WTO) concerns, the total quantity of eligible acres on the farm shall not exceed the average total acres planted or prrevented from being planted to upland cotton on the farm for the 2009-2012 crop years. There is an adjustment allowed for land coming out of CRP contracts.

The FCIC would pay 80% of the STAX premium for the coverage level selected.

Includes provisions that allow agents and companies to correct eligibility information.

Calls for USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) to establish a new peanut revenue crop insurance program.

Includes an acreage report streamlining initiative, calling on the Secretary to develop a project that allows producers to report acreage and other information directly to the department.

FCIC already offers whole farm insurance plans, but adds a directive to USDA to do research and development on a Whole Farm Diversified Risk Management Insurance product with a liability up to $1.5 million for diversified operations, including specialty crops and mixed grain/livestock and dairy operations. Allows FCIC to provide “diversification-based” addiitional coverage payments rates, premium discounts or other enhanced benefits in recognition of the risk management benefits of growing mulitple crops and livestock.

Requires the Secretary to provide organic certification cost-share assistance and to support risk management education and community outreach

Authorizes $23 million in agricultural management assistance grants to producers in states in which there has traditionally been a low level of crop insurance participation for constructing or improving watershed management structures, irrigation structures, planting trees, mitigating risk through conservation practices, organic farming or value-added processing with payments capped at $50,000.

Title XII - Miscellaneous

Authorizes $20 million in annual appropriations for outreach to Socially Disadvantaged Producers and Limited Resource Producers. Authorizes appropriations for USDA's Office of Advocacy and Outreach of $2 million annually.

Adds a Wildlife Reservoir Zoonotic Disease Initiative to the Research title, with $7 million authorized annually.

Authorizes the Secretary to establish a competitive grant program to improve the U.S. sheep industry.

Authorizes the Secretary to establish a feral swine eradication pilot program.

Authorizes $10 million annually for grants to improve the supply, stability, safety and training of the agricultural labor force.

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