

CQ COMMITTEE MEETINGS
House Agriculture Committee Business Meeting
July 11, 2012 - Votes to be added

Panel Endorses Farm Bill with Cuts to Food Aid

By Carolyn Phenicie, Rachael Bade and Philip Brasher, CQ Staff

The House Agriculture panel advanced a fiscally austere farm bill late Wednesday after considering about 90 amendments during a marathon markup, including a proposal to make deep cuts to the nation's largest food program.

The committee voted 35-11 to send the amended bill ([HR 6083](#)) to the House with favorable recommendations, including those on amendments. But a fight over \$16.1 billion in proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dominated the nearly 15-hour meeting.

Ultimately, the panel rejected Democratic efforts to restore the funding and a GOP amendment that would have made even steeper cuts.

Chairman [Frank D. Lucas](#), R-Okla., and ranking Democrat [Collin C. Peterson](#) of Minnesota made a calculated gamble in putting forward the cuts to the food-aid program — more than three times the amount in the Senate-passed farm bill ([S 3240](#)). The figure represents the delicate balance needed to advance their measure through the House or to negotiate a final bill with the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, Lucas said.

SNAP advocate [Jim McGovern](#), D-Mass., said he understands that Lucas and Peterson are trying to be strategic with their cuts to SNAP, but he added that their approach will not win his support or that of many of his colleagues. “I know what they are trying to do. I want a farm bill, but enough is enough” on SNAP, he said.

Five Democrats joined all of the panel's Republicans to reject a McGovern amendment to restore the cuts in 15-31 vote. The panel also defeated, 15-28, an amendment by North Carolina Democrat [Larry Kissell](#) that would have substituted the SNAP reductions in the House bill with the smaller cuts in the Senate bill, estimated to be about \$4.5 billion.

The panel also rebuffed, 13-33, a [Tim Huelskamp](#), R-Kan., amendment that would more than doubled the SNAP cuts, increasing the savings over 10 years to about \$35 billion.

In addition, the panel rejected efforts to change dairy and sugar policies in the bill. The measure would produce \$35 billion in savings in mandatory spending from fiscal 2013 to 2022, according to the Congressional Budget Office — \$12 billion more than the CBO's score for the Senate bill.

Cuts to SNAP, the program formerly known as food stamps, would make up the biggest portion of the bill's savings. Most of the cuts would come from scaled-back automatic eligibility in the program.

Panel Democrats decried the reductions as an attack on society's most vulnerable. The provision would "literally take food away from hungry people — people who are poor," said McGovern, co-chairman of the House Hunger Caucus.

At the crux of the debate was whether the 2 million or 3 million people who would lose SNAP benefits under the proposed reductions merited enrollment in the first place. Republicans thought they didn't, but Democrats thought they did. The bill would limit automatic eligibility to households receiving cash assistance from the Supplemental Security Income disability program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or state general assistance programs.

Republicans tried to alleviate Democrats' concerns by pointing out that the SNAP changes would not alter qualifications but would ensure that recipients meet income and asset criteria.

"The legislation will not prevent families that qualify for assistance under SNAP law from receiving their benefits," Lucas said.

But McGovern dismissed the argument, saying 99 percent of all SNAP recipients in 2010 were eligible. "These aren't people trying to game the system, they're just people trying to get by," he said. He said he plans to vote against the overall measure.

Huelskamp's amendment would have brought the measure in line with a House-passed bill ([HR 5652](#)) that would reduce spending on social programs to protect the Pentagon from deep automatic spending cuts required under last year's debt limit law ([PL 112-25](#)).

Specifically, the amendment would have ended temporary higher monthly benefits enacted under the 2009 economic stimulus law ([PL 111-5](#)). Those benefits are scheduled to run out in October 2013.

Rep. [K. Michael Conaway](#) said he had supported deeper cuts to SNAP when the committee in April approved the bill to counter sequestration. However, the Texas Republican voted against Huelskamp's amendment out of concern that seeking more than \$16.1 billion in reductions could end "any realistic chance of getting this to the president."

Dairy and Sugar Policy Debate

The panel rejected, 17-29, an amendment by [Robert W. Goodlatte](#), R-Va., that would strike supply management from the dairy price support in the bill. The bill would require dairy farmers to participate in a market stabilization program if they join a federal price support program; the market stabilization includes limiting milk production when prices drop. The amendment would have eliminated those milk production limits.

Opponents of the amendment argued that the new dairy program, which is designed to protect farm profit margins, needed to be given time to work.

“I don’t love market stabilization, but this is necessary for at least five years,” Peterson said.

A sugar policy amendment by Goodlatte also was rejected 10-36. It would have repealed some existing sugar policy provisions enacted in 2008, rolled back price support levels and given the Agriculture secretary greater authority to modify or suspend domestic marketing allowances.

Peterson said Goodlatte’s amendment would make the sugar program “completely unworkable.”

Other Amendments

Lawmakers filed about 100 amendments to the bill.

The committee adopted by voice vote an amendment by [Leonard L. Boswell](#), D-Iowa, that would require the Agriculture Department to assess the workload of field offices and solicit public comment before going forward with closures.

Members representing large rural districts noted that closures have required farmers to drive great distances to access Farm Service Agency offices. Others said that tough decisions — including shuttering these offices — have to be made to cut the federal deficit.

The panel rejected, 18-26, an amendment by [Jim Costa](#), D-Calif., that would earmark funding under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to deal with air quality problems.

Among a handful of withdrawn amendments was a proposal by [Jeff Fortenberry](#), R-Neb., to tighten eligibility rules for crop subsidies and lower the bill’s limits on the amount of money farmers can collect.

Ellyn Ferguson contributed to this story.

Scheduled Agenda

- [HR 6083](#) — Farm Bill

Committee Votes

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Milk Price Control

R. Goodlatte, R-Va. – Amendment that would strike the margin insurance and market stabilization program and replace it with a standalone margin insurance program.

Rejected 17-29: R 15-11; D 2-18; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (17)

Republicans (15)

DesJarlais (Tenn.)	Elmers (N.C.)	Fortenberry (Neb.)
Gibbs, B. (Ohio)	Goodlatte (Va.)	Huelskamp (Kan.)
Hultgren (Ill.)	King, S. (Iowa)	Neugebauer (Texas)
Ribble (Wis.)	Rooney (Fla.)	Schmidt (Ohio)
Southerland (Fla.)	Thompson, G. (Pa.)	Tipton (Colo.)

Democrats (2)

Fudge (Ohio)	Scott, D. (Ga.)
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NAYS (29)

Republicans (11)

Conaway (Texas)	Crawford (Ark.)	Gibson, C. (N.Y.)
Hartzler (Mo.)	Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)	Lucas (Okla.)
Noem (S.D.)	Roby (Ala.)	Schilling (Ill.)
Scott, A. (Ga.)	Stutzman (Ind.)	

Democrats (18)

Baca (Calif.)	Boswell (Iowa)	Cardoza (Calif.)
Costa (Calif.)	Courtney (Conn.)	Cuellar (Texas)
Holden (Pa.)	Kissell (N.C.)	McGovern (Mass.)
McIntyre (N.C.)	Owens (N.Y.)	Peterson (Minn.)
Pingree (Maine)	Sablan (N. Marianas)	Schrader (Ore.)
Sewell (Ala.)	Walz (Minn.)	Welch (Vt.)

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Child Labor

Baca, D-Calif. – Amendment that would add language that it is the sense of Congress that the United States should follow standard age requirements for child labor as ratified by the United Nations Labor Organization.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Dairy Feed Cost

Cardoza, D-Calif. – Amendment that would allow dairy producers, for purposes of margin insurance premiums, to calculate average feed costs based on prices in the top 10 milk producing states rather than on a national average.

Rejected by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Payment Limits

Fortenberry, R-Neb. – Amendment that would institute payment limits and tighten the definition of those "actively engaged in farming" who are eligible for payments.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Information Sharing

McIntyre, D-N.C. – Amendment that would allow the USDA to share crop information with nonprofit commodity marketing and promotional organizations to implement state-based programs authorized by producer referendum.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Sugar Policy Overhaul

R. Goodlatte, R-Va. – Amendment that would:

- Repeal a program that requires the government to buy excess sugar and sell it to ethanol companies.
- Repeal language that prohibits the secretary of Agriculture from allowing additional sugar imports.
- Reduce price support levels.

- Restore the secretary of Agriculture's authority to modify or suspend domestic marketing allowances.

Rejected 10-36: R 8-18; D 2-18; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (10)

Republicans (8)

DesJarlais (Tenn.)	Goodlatte (Va.)	Huelskamp (Kan.)
Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)	Neugebauer (Texas)	Ribble (Wis.)
Stutzman (Ind.)	Thompson, G. (Pa.)	

Democrats (2)

Fudge (Ohio)	Scott, D. (Ga.)
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NAYS (36)

Republicans (18)

Conaway (Texas)	Crawford (Ark.)	Ellmers (N.C.)
Fortenberry (Neb.)	Gibbs, B. (Ohio)	Gibson, C. (N.Y.)
Hartzler (Mo.)	Hultgren (Ill.)	King, S. (Iowa)
Lucas (Okla.)	Noem (S.D.)	Roby (Ala.)
Rooney (Fla.)	Schilling (Ill.)	Schmidt (Ohio)
Scott, A. (Ga.)	Southerland (Fla.)	Tipton (Colo.)

Democrats (18)

Baca (Calif.)	Boswell (Iowa)	Cardoza (Calif.)
Costa (Calif.)	Courtney (Conn.)	Cuellar (Texas)
Holden (Pa.)	Kissell (N.C.)	McGovern (Mass.)
McIntyre (N.C.)	Owens (N.Y.)	Peterson (Minn.)
Pingree (Maine)	Sablan (N. Marianas)	Schrader (Ore.)
Sewell (Ala.)	Walz (Minn.)	Welch (Vt.)

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Revenue Loss Requirement

Boswell, D-Iowa – Amendment that would require a farmer to show a revenue loss to be eligible for the price loss coverage program.

Rejected by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Loss Coverage Selection

B. Gibbs, R-Ohio – Amendment that would require the majority of landowners selected to participate in revenue loss coverage rather than price loss coverage.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Dairy Transition Time

Walz, D-Minn. – Amendment that would allow dairy farmers to continue under existing dairy price supports during the transition to the dairy price support program instituted by the bill.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Farm Service Agency Office Closure

Boswell, D-Iowa – Amendment that would require a workload assessment, public comment period and reports to counties and Congress before a Farm Service Agency county office is closed or relocated.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Air Quality Study

Costa, D-Calif. – Amendment that would reauthorize grants to deal with air quality concerns from agriculture operations through 2017.

Rejected 18-26; R 2-23; D 16-3; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (18)

Republicans (2)

Gibson, C. (N.Y.)

Tipton (Colo.)

Democrats (16)

Baca (Calif.)

Boswell (Iowa)

Cardoza (Calif.)

Costa (Calif.)

Courtney (Conn.)

Cuellar (Texas)

Kissell (N.C.)

McGovern (Mass.)

Owens (N.Y.)

Pingree (Maine)

Sablan (N. Marianas)

Schrader (Ore.)

Scott, D. (Ga.)

Sewell (Ala.)

Walz (Minn.)

Welch (Vt.)

NAYS (26)**Republicans (23)**

Conaway (Texas)

Crawford (Ark.)

DesJarlais (Tenn.)

Fortenberry (Neb.)

Gibbs, B. (Ohio)

Goodlatte (Va.)

Hartzler (Mo.)

Huelskamp (Kan.)

Hultgren (Ill.)

Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)

King, S. (Iowa)

Lucas (Okla.)

Neugebauer (Texas)

Noem (S.D.)

Ribble (Wis.)

Roby (Ala.)

Rooney (Fla.)

Schilling (Ill.)

Schmidt (Ohio)

Scott, A. (Ga.)

Southerland (Fla.)

Stutzman (Ind.)

Thompson, G. (Pa.)

Democrats (3)

Holden (Pa.)

McIntyre (N.C.)

Peterson (Minn.)

NOT VOTING (2)**Republicans (1)**

Ellmers (N.C.) ?

Democrats (1)

Fudge (Ohio) ?

[HR 6083](#)**Farm Bil/Undersecretary of Agriculture for Foreign Agricultural Services**

Rooney, R-Fla. – Amendment that would establish an undersecretary of Agriculture for foreign agricultural services to be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Medical Marijuana Expenses

Schmidt, R-Ohio – Amendment that would exclude medical marijuana as a medical expense that can be deducted from income to determine eligibility for supplemental nutrition benefits.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Community Supported Agriculture

Pingree, D-Maine – Amendment that would allow supplemental nutrition benefits to be used to purchase shares of community-supported agriculture programs.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Immigration Verification

Roby, R-Ala. – Amendment that would require state agencies to verify the immigration status of nutrition program applicants.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/SNAP Cut Restoration

McGovern, D-Mass. – Amendment that would restore \$16.5 billion cut to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Rejected 15-31; R 0-26; D 15-5; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (15)

Democrats (15)

Baca (Calif.)

Boswell (Iowa)

Cardoza (Calif.)

Costa (Calif.)

Courtney (Conn.)

Cuellar (Texas)

Fudge (Ohio)
Pingree (Maine)
Sewell (Ala.)

Kissell (N.C.)
Sablan (N. Marianas)
Walz (Minn.)

McGovern (Mass.)
Scott, D. (Ga.)
Welch (Vt.)

NAYS (31)

Republicans (26)

Conaway (Texas)
Ellmers (N.C.)
Gibson, C. (N.Y.)
Huelskamp (Kan.)
King, S. (Iowa)
Noem (S.D.)
Rooney (Fla.)
Scott, A. (Ga.)
Thompson, G. (Pa.)

Crawford (Ark.)
Fortenberry (Neb.)
Goodlatte (Va.)
Hultgren (Ill.)
Lucas (Okla.)
Ribble (Wis.)
Schilling (Ill.)
Southerland (Fla.)
Tipton (Colo.)

DesJarlais (Tenn.)
Gibbs, B. (Ohio)
Hartzler (Mo.)
Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)
Neugebauer (Texas)
Roby (Ala.)
Schmidt (Ohio)
Stutzman (Ind.)

Democrats (5)

Holden (Pa.)
Peterson (Minn.)

McIntyre (N.C.)
Schrader (Ore.)

Owens (N.Y.)

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Food Bank Regulations

R. Goodlatte, R-Va. – Amendment that would require the Agriculture Department to consider the cost of proposed regulations on food pantries and other emergency food organizations.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Commodity Purchases for Food Banks

R. Goodlatte, R-Va. – Amendment that would require the secretary of Agriculture to distribute commodities purchased for emergency food assistance to maximize continuity of distribution. It would require the secretary to adjust the timing of purchases and distributions, exercise discretion to purchase special commodities when there is reason to believe supplies will fall below mandated levels, and consider potential surplus purchases.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Restore Senate Levels for SNAP

Kissell, D-N.C. – Amendment that would strike Title IV and replace it with Title IV of the Senate-passed farm bill (S 3240).

Rejected 15-28: R 1-24; D 14-4; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (15)

Republicans (1)

Gibson, C. (N.Y.)

Democrats (14)

Baca (Calif.)

Boswell (Iowa)

Cardoza (Calif.)

Costa (Calif.)

Courtney (Conn.)

Cuellar (Texas)

Kissell (N.C.)

McIntyre (N.C.)

Owens (N.Y.)

Pingree (Maine)

Schrader (Ore.)

Scott, D. (Ga.)

Walz (Minn.)

Welch (Vt.)

NAYS (28)

Republicans (24)

Conaway (Texas)

Crawford (Ark.)

DesJarlais (Tenn.)

Ellmers (N.C.)

Fortenberry (Neb.)

Gibbs, B. (Ohio)

Goodlatte (Va.)

Hartzler (Mo.)

Huelskamp (Kan.)

Hultgren (Ill.)

King, S. (Iowa)

Lucas (Okla.)

Neugebauer (Texas)

Noem (S.D.)

Ribble (Wis.)

Roby (Ala.)

Rooney (Fla.)

Schilling (Ill.)

Schmidt (Ohio)

Scott, A. (Ga.)

Southerland (Fla.)

Stutzman (Ind.)

Thompson, G. (Pa.)

Tipton (Colo.)

Democrats (4)

Holden (Pa.)

McGovern (Mass.)

Peterson (Minn.)

Sablan (N. Marianas)

NOT VOTING (3)

Republicans (1)

Johnson, Timothy (Ill.) ?

Democrats (2)

Fudge (Ohio) ?

Sewell (Ala.) ?

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Healthy Food Financing Initiative

Fudge, D-Ohio – Amendment that would allow the Department of Agriculture to undertake projects that expand access to healthy food in underserved areas and authorize \$125 million for the effort.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Convenience Stores

Conaway, R-Texas – Amendment that would allow convenience and other stores to participate in SNAP even if more than 45 percent of their sales come from items prohibited under the program, such as alcohol and tobacco.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/En Bloc Amendments

Costa, D-Calif. – En bloc amendments that would do the following:

- Allow states to enroll recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families in employment and training programs provided through SNAP.
- Allow states to use SNAP employment and training funds to pay for services not directly related to employment and training if the services raise the nutritional levels of SNAP recipients.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Electronic Benefits in Puerto Rico

S. King, R-Iowa – Amendment that would require SNAP benefits in Puerto Rico to be distributed electronically rather than as cash.

Adopted 27-19: R 25-1; D 2-18; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (27)

Republicans (25)

Conaway (Texas)	Crawford (Ark.)	DesJarlais (Tenn.)
Ellmers (N.C.)	Fortenberry (Neb.)	Gibbs, B. (Ohio)
Goodlatte (Va.)	Hartzler (Mo.)	Huelskamp (Kan.)
Hultgren (Ill.)	Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)	King, S. (Iowa)
Lucas (Okla.)	Neugebauer (Texas)	Noem (S.D.)
Ribble (Wis.)	Roby (Ala.)	Rooney (Fla.)
Schilling (Ill.)	Schmidt (Ohio)	Scott, A. (Ga.)
Southerland (Fla.)	Stutzman (Ind.)	Thompson, G. (Pa.)
Tipton (Colo.)		

Democrats (2)

Cuellar (Texas)	McIntyre (N.C.)
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NAYS (19)

Republicans (1)

Gibson, C. (N.Y.)

Democrats (18)

Baca (Calif.)	Boswell (Iowa)	Cardoza (Calif.)
Costa (Calif.)	Courtney (Conn.)	Fudge (Ohio)
Holden (Pa.)	Kissell (N.C.)	McGovern (Mass.)
Owens (N.Y.)	Peterson (Minn.)	Pingree (Maine)
Sablan (N. Marianas)	Schrader (Ore.)	Scott, D. (Ga.)
Sewell (Ala.)	Walz (Minn.)	Welch (Vt.)

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/School Control of Commodity Funds

Pingree, D-Maine – Amendment that would allow states with low levels of commodity entitlements to purchase locally grown food in lieu of commodity assistance provided under the school meal program if the Agriculture Department determines it would reduce administrative costs. The proposal also would establish 10 pilot farm-to-school programs throughout the country to test alternative food distribution methods.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/SNAP Overhaul

Huelskamp, R-Kan. – Amendment that would overhaul SNAP by doing the following:

- Requiring the consideration of payments under certain energy assistance programs as payments made to households when determining eligibility.
- Replacing automatic funding increases with a set funding authorization.
- Eliminating federal cost sharing for some employment and training programs.

Rejected 13-33: R 13-13; D 0-20; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (13)

Republicans (13)

DesJarlais (Tenn.)

Ellmers (N.C.)

Gibbs, B. (Ohio)

Goodlatte (Va.)

Hartzler (Mo.)

Huelskamp (Kan.)

King, S. (Iowa)

Neugebauer (Texas)

Ribble (Wis.)

Roby (Ala.)

Scott, A. (Ga.)

Southerland (Fla.)

Stutzman (Ind.)

NAYS (33)

Republicans (13)

Conaway (Texas)

Crawford (Ark.)

Fortenberry (Neb.)

Gibson, C. (N.Y.)

Hultgren (Ill.)

Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)

Lucas (Okla.)

Noem (S.D.)

Rooney (Fla.)

Schilling (Ill.)

Schmidt (Ohio)

Thompson, G. (Pa.)

Tipton (Colo.)

Democrats (20)

Baca (Calif.)	Boswell (Iowa)	Cardoza (Calif.)
Costa (Calif.)	Courtney (Conn.)	Cuellar (Texas)
Fudge (Ohio)	Holden (Pa.)	Kissell (N.C.)
McGovern (Mass.)	McIntyre (N.C.)	Owens (N.Y.)
Peterson (Minn.)	Pingree (Maine)	Sablan (N. Marianas)
Schrader (Ore.)	Scott, D. (Ga.)	Sewell (Ala.)
Walz (Minn.)	Welch (Vt.)	

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Cardoza, D-Calif. – Amendment that would keep the word "fresh" in the title of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which provides fresh fruit and vegetables as snacks to school children, thereby preventing frozen, canned and other forms of non-fresh fruit from being included in the program.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/SNAP Utility Allowance Limits

Roby, R-Ala. – Amendment that would remove automatic standard utility allowance deductions used to calculate income when determining SNAP benefits.

Rejected 17-27: R 17-8; D 0-19; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (17)

Republicans (17)

DesJarlais (Tenn.)	Ellmers (N.C.)	Gibbs, B. (Ohio)
Goodlatte (Va.)	Hartzler (Mo.)	Huelskamp (Kan.)
Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)	King, S. (Iowa)	Neugebauer (Texas)
Noem (S.D.)	Ribble (Wis.)	Roby (Ala.)
Rooney (Fla.)	Schilling (Ill.)	Scott, A. (Ga.)
Southerland (Fla.)	Stutzman (Ind.)	

NAYS (27)

Republicans (8)

Conaway (Texas)

Gibson, C. (N.Y.)

Thompson, G. (Pa.)

Crawford (Ark.)

Hultgren (Ill.)

Tipton (Colo.)

Fortenberry (Neb.)

Lucas (Okla.)

Democrats (19)

Baca (Calif.)

Costa (Calif.)

Fudge (Ohio)

McIntyre (N.C.)

Pingree (Maine)

Scott, D. (Ga.)

Welch (Vt.)

Boswell (Iowa)

Courtney (Conn.)

Kissell (N.C.)

Owens (N.Y.)

Sablan (N. Marianas)

Sewell (Ala.)

Cardoza (Calif.)

Cuellar (Texas)

McGovern (Mass.)

Peterson (Minn.)

Schrader (Ore.)

Walz (Minn.)

NOT VOTING (2)**Republicans (1)**

Schmidt (Ohio) ?

Democrats (1)

Holden (Pa.) ?

[HR 6083](#)**Farm Bill/Study Reimbursement Rates in U.S. Territories**

Sablan, D-N. Marianas – Amendment that would require the secretary of Agriculture to study reimbursement rates for school lunches in U.S. territories.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)**Farm Bill/Prohibition on Advertising**

R. Goodlatte, R-Va. – Amendment that would repeal authorization of funds used to advertise for SNAP participation.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)**Farm Bill/Utility Assistance Allowance**

Neugebauer, R-Texas – Amendment that would require SNAP recipients receive at least \$50 a year in utility assistance in order to be eligible for additional benefits.

Rejected by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Standard Data Format

Conaway, R-Texas – Amendment that would establish requirements for the electronic content and format of data used in the SNAP administration.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Utility Allowance Overhaul Deadline

Huelskamp, R-Kan. – Amendment that would institute a firm deadline of Jan. 1, 2013, to implement supplemental utility allowance changes.

Rejected by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/State Verification Reports

Neugebauer, R-Texas – Amendment that would require states to verify with the Social Security Administration that recipients are not deceased or dual-enrolled. States that do not submit yearly verification reports would lose half of federal administrative reimbursements.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Microloan Program

Fudge, D-Ohio – Amendment that would establish a microloan program for certain farmers. It would be funded out of existing direct and guaranteed operating loan portfolios and allow for smaller loans for up to \$35,000.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Youth Operating Loans

Fudge, D-Ohio – Amendment that would lift the residential restriction for Agriculture Department Youth Operating Loans, which are currently only available to rural areas with fewer than 55,000 residents.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Period Limitations

Boswell, D-Iowa – Amendment that would eliminate limitations on the period borrowers are eligible for guaranteed assistance.

Rejected by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Broadband Service

Timothy Johnson, R-Ill. – Amendment that would give priority in bonds and notes issued for electrification or telephone purposes to applicants who offer their applications to provide broadband service not predominantly for business service, but where at least 25 percent of customers in the proposed service territory are commercial interests.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Stakeholder Collaboration

Sewell, D-Ala. – Amendment that would require the secretary of Agriculture to give priority to economic development projects undertaken through a collaboration of stakeholders, including multiple levels of government.

Rejected 18-26; R 3-23; D 15-3; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (18)

Republicans (3)

Gibson, C. (N.Y.)

Schilling (Ill.)

Scott, A. (Ga.)

Democrats (15)

Baca (Calif.)

Boswell (Iowa)

Costa (Calif.)

Courtney (Conn.)	Kissell (N.C.)	McGovern (Mass.)
McIntyre (N.C.)	Owens (N.Y.)	Pingree (Maine)
Sablan (N. Marianas)	Schrader (Ore.)	Scott, D. (Ga.)
Sewell (Ala.)	Walz (Minn.)	Welch (Vt.)

NAYS (26)

Republicans (23)

Conaway (Texas)	Crawford (Ark.)	DesJarlais (Tenn.)
Ellmers (N.C.)	Fortenberry (Neb.)	Gibbs, B. (Ohio)
Goodlatte (Va.)	Hartzler (Mo.)	Huelskamp (Kan.)
Hultgren (Ill.)	Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)	King, S. (Iowa)
Lucas (Okla.)	Neugebauer (Texas)	Noem (S.D.)
Ribble (Wis.)	Roby (Ala.)	Rooney (Fla.)
Schmidt (Ohio)	Southerland (Fla.)	Stutzman (Ind.)
Thompson, G. (Pa.)	Tipton (Colo.)	

Democrats (3)

Cuellar (Texas)	Holden (Pa.)	Peterson (Minn.)
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NOT VOTING (2)

Democrats (2)

Cardoza (Calif.) ?	Fudge (Ohio) ?
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[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Broadband Grants

C. Gibson, R-N.Y. – Amendment that would allow Agriculture to award loans in combination with a grant when lending for broadband telecommunications services in rural areas. The grants would not be allowed to exceed 10 percent of the cost of the project involved.

Rejected 19-25; R 3-23; D 16-2; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (19)

Republicans (3)

Gibson, C. (N.Y.)	Noem (S.D.)	Scott, A. (Ga.)
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Democrats (16)

Baca (Calif.)	Boswell (Iowa)	Costa (Calif.)
Courtney (Conn.)	Cuellar (Texas)	Fudge (Ohio)
Holden (Pa.)	Kissell (N.C.)	McGovern (Mass.)
McIntyre (N.C.)	Owens (N.Y.)	Peterson (Minn.)
Pingree (Maine)	Sablan (N. Marianas)	Schrader (Ore.)
Walz (Minn.)		

NAYS (25)**Republicans (23)**

Conaway (Texas)	Crawford (Ark.)	DesJarlais (Tenn.)
Ellmers (N.C.)	Fortenberry (Neb.)	Gibbs, B. (Ohio)
Goodlatte (Va.)	Hartzler (Mo.)	Huelskamp (Kan.)
Hultgren (Ill.)	Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)	King, S. (Iowa)
Lucas (Okla.)	Neugebauer (Texas)	Ribble (Wis.)
Roby (Ala.)	Rooney (Fla.)	Schilling (Ill.)
Schmidt (Ohio)	Southerland (Fla.)	Stutzman (Ind.)
Thompson, G. (Pa.)	Tipton (Colo.)	

Democrats (2)

Scott, D. (Ga.)	Welch (Vt.)
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NOT VOTING (2)**Democrats (2)**

Cardoza (Calif.) ?	Sewell (Ala.) ?
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[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/"Unincorporated Area" Definition

Courtney, D-Conn. – Amendment that would clarify the definition of "unincorporated areas" to include state or municipally designated townships, villages, boroughs, counties or municipal subdivisions.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Small Business Loans

A. Scott, R-Ga. – Amendment that would allow the Department of Agriculture to provide small business loans for working capital and to consider accounts receivable as security for small business loans.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Business and Industry Loans

Pingree, D-Maine – Amendment that would remove the cap on business and industry loans in certain circumstances and authorize local and regional food systems as eligible for rural business opportunity grants.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Private and Cooperative Lenders

Tipton, R-Colo. – Amendment that would direct the Agriculture Department to "encourage, to the maximum extent practicable, private or cooperative lenders to finance rural water and waste disposal facilities" using loan guarantees.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Public-Private Water Infrastructure

Welch, D-Vt. – Amendment that would reauthorize state-and-local rural development councils through 2017.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Population Threshold for Community Facilities Loans and Grants

C. Gibson, R-N.Y. – Amendment that would raise the population threshold to 30,000 for towns to participate in the Community Facilities loans and grants programs.

Rejected by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Surface Transportation Board

Walz, D-Minn. – Amendment that would direct the Agriculture Department to participate in the Surface Transportation Board activities on behalf of the interests of agriculture and rural America.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Major Federal Actions

Huelskamp, R-Kan. – Amendment that would stop the Agriculture Department from considering the following as "major federal actions" in the case of loan, loan guarantee or grant programs in rural development mission areas:

- Approval of decisions of a borrower to commence a privately funded activity.
- A lien accommodation or subordination.
- A debt settlement.
- The restructuring of a business entity by a borrower.

Adopted by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Matching Provision

Sewell, D-Ala. – Amendment that would strike a provision in the bill that requires recipients of certain competitive grants to match the awarded funds with other funds or in-kind contributions from sources other than the grant funds.

Withdrawn; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Second-Degree Amendment

Fortenberry, R-Neb. – Second-degree amendment that would make technical changes to the Fortenberry amendment.

The Fortenberry amendment would establish a grant priority for veteran-farmer rehabilitation programs in the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.

Agreed to by unanimous consent; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/Veteran Farmers

Fortenberry, R-Neb. – Amendment that would establish a grant priority for veteran-farmer rehabilitation programs in the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.

Adopted (as amended) by voice vote; July 11, 2012.

[HR 6083](#)

Farm Bill/VTR

Reauthorize through fiscal 2017 farm insurance, food aid and other types of agriculture programs.

Commodities

The bill would repeal four direct payments to farmers and instead offer two options: price loss coverage and revenue loss coverage. Producers would choose which program to join on a crop-by-crop basis.

The price loss program would provide coverage only when crops reach certain prices. Revenue loss coverage would be provided when revenue falls more than 15 percent. Both programs would limit eligibility to farmers making no more than \$950,000 annually.

The bill would eliminate existing dairy subsidy programs and offer dairy farmers a voluntary margin protection, but if farmers participate they would then be subject to supply management controls.

It would continue existing policies governing sugar production and would reauthorize loss protection programs for livestock, honey bee and farmed fish producers.

Cotton producers would not be eligible for either price loss coverage or revenue loss coverage.

Conservation

The bill would consolidate 23 conservation programs into 13, saving a projected \$6 billion. It would reauthorize through fiscal 2017 the Conservation Reservation Program and reduce the enrollment cap overtime, starting with 32 million acres in fiscal 2012 and lowering it gradually to 25 million acres in 2016 and 2017, cutting an estimated \$4 billion.

The bill would give landowners more flexibility in haying, mowing and grazing or fencing on their enrolled grasslands.

The bill would establish for fiscal years 2013 through fiscal 2017 a conservation stewardship program to encourage producers to address resource concerns through conservation efforts. Program enrollment would be capped at 9 million acres and capped at \$18 of assistance per acre.

The bill would reauthorize the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which would absorb the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, through 2017 at current funding levels. It would require 60 percent of the funds for fiscal years 2013 through 2017 to be targeted to payments for livestock production.

The bill would establish a new Agriculture Conservation Easement Program to consolidated various programs.

Trade Programs

The bill would reauthorize the Market Access Program to assist with the costs of promoting small business and nonprofit trade organizations; the Foreign Market Development Program, which partly reimburses participants who help identify new markets for U.S. goods; the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops, which would be given expanded authority to respond to technical trade barriers; and others.

The bill would also reauthorize Food for Peace through 2017, reducing the authorization for appropriations from \$2.5 billion to \$2 billion a year and setting the minimum level of development programming at \$400 million per year. The authorization would set aside \$10 million annually for oversight and evaluations of participating organizations. The bill would require the Agriculture Department and U.S. Agency for International Development to establish a mechanism for evaluating food quality.

Nutrition

The bill would overhaul the mandatory Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to trim an estimated \$16 billion over the next decade.

The bill would restrict automatic eligibility only to households receiving cash assistance through other low-income programs, such as Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and state programs. The bill would keep households from automatically becoming eligible for SNAP if they receive a TANF brochure.

The bill would also prohibit states' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) from sending payments below \$10 to households with the sole purpose of triggering increased SNAP benefits. It would keep so-called "traditional" college students from receiving benefits, limiting eligibility to those in technical, vocation education, etc.

It would eliminate state performance bonuses for administering snap and prohibit participating retailers from selling more than 45 percent in prohibited SNAP items, such as alcohol or tobacco.

The bill would increase the authorization for the Emergency Food Assistance Program by \$20 million annually through 2017 but overhaul the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to focus solely on senior citizens.

Credit

The bill would reauthorize credit programs that facilitate farm ownership loans through fiscal 2017. It would increase conservation loan guarantee percentages, raising the access to borrowers by increasing loan guarantee amounts from 75 percent to 90 percent. It would also increase maximum loan value for down payment loans from \$500,000 to \$667,000.

- - Rural Development**

The bill would reauthorize various grants for rural development, including those for broadband internet access, telemedicine, water and wastewater treatment and rural microenterprise, most at reduced levels. It would require the Agriculture Department to develop simplified application forms for rural development grant programs.

Research Extension

The bill would reauthorize 47 agricultural research and education programs and reduce funding levels by \$500 million and direct spending under the title by \$83 million over five years. It would repeal 77 especially non-competitive research grants. The bill would bar the department from awarding extramural competitive grants unless the president includes them in his budget and it is approved by Congress.

Forestry

The bill would reauthorize several forest preservation grant programs, in most cases replacing "such sums as are necessary" funding levels with specific amounts.

Energy

The bill would eliminate mandatory funding for the nation's energy supply and reauthorize programs at reduced discretionary levels, cutting \$500 million. It would bar the Rural Energy for America program, which provides financial assistance to farmers using renewable energy, from considering ethanol blender pumps as "renewable." The bill also would repeal five energy programs.

Horticulture

Provisions the bill would authorize funding for the National Organic Program and for grants to help farmers' markets and other farm-to-consumer food programs.

It would authorize the secretary of Agriculture to investigate violations of laws governing organic farming and revoke organic certifications.

The bill would extend specialty crop block grants through fiscal 2017. It would combine two existing programs into the National Clean Plant Network to study plant pathogens. It would reauthorize the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (PL 110-94) and would limit the EPA's ability to modify or cancel pesticide registrations under certain circumstances.

Crop Insurance

The bill would allow farmers to purchase supplemental coverage for crop insurance. This coverage would be area-wide group insurance and coverage would be triggered by a 10 percent drop in prices as assessed at the county level. Under the program, the government would pay 70 percent of premiums and farmers would pay 30 percent. Farmers in their first five years of production would be eligible for an additional 10 percent reduction in premiums.

It would authorize additional funds to assist producers of specialty crops in buying supplemental coverage. Farmers enrolled in supplemental coverage would not be subject to income limits.

It would establish a revenue crop insurance program for peanut producers.

Ordered reported favorably to the full House (as amended) 35-11; R 22-4; D 13-7; I 0-0; July 11, 2012.

[Vote Key](#)

YEAS (35)

Republicans (22)

Conaway (Texas)	Crawford (Ark.)	DesJarlais (Tenn.)
Ellmers (N.C.)	Fortenberry (Neb.)	Gibson, C. (N.Y.)
Hartzler (Mo.)	Hultgren (Ill.)	Johnson, Timothy (Ill.)
King, S. (Iowa)	Lucas (Okla.)	Neugebauer (Texas)
Noem (S.D.)	Ribble (Wis.)	Roby (Ala.)
Rooney (Fla.)	Schilling (Ill.)	Schmidt (Ohio)
Scott, A. (Ga.)	Southerland (Fla.)	Thompson, G. (Pa.)
Tipton (Colo.)		

Democrats (13)

Boswell (Iowa)	Cardoza (Calif.)	Costa (Calif.)
Cuellar (Texas)	Holden (Pa.)	Kissell (N.C.)
McIntyre (N.C.)	Owens (N.Y.)	Peterson (Minn.)

Sablan (N. Marianas)
Welch (Vt.)

Schrader (Ore.)

Walz (Minn.)

NAYS (11)

Republicans (4)

Gibbs, B. (Ohio)

Goodlatte (Va.)

Huelskamp (Kan.)

Stutzman (Ind.)

Democrats (7)

Baca (Calif.)

Courtney (Conn.)

Fudge (Ohio)

McGovern (Mass.)

Pingree (Maine)

Scott, D. (Ga.)

Sewell (Ala.)

Committee Vote Position Key

* Proxy Vote

Paired for

P Voted Present

X Paired against

A Abstained

+ Announced for

? Did not vote

- Announced against

Source: CQ Committee Coverage

Gavel-to-gavel coverage and votes of every markup on Capitol Hill.

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