

2007 Farm Bill

Comparison of the Senate Agriculture Committee-passed Bill with the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendation
Title I - Producer Income Protection Title	Title I - Commodity Programs	Commodity Programs
<p>Direct Payments and Counter-Cyclical Payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extends the current farm safety net through the 2012 crop year; retains current base acres and creates base acres for newly-eligible crops like dry peas and lentils - Maintains direct payments 	<p>Direct Payments and Counter-Cyclical Payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continues support for farmers through direct payments at the same level as current law. - Preserves the non-recourse marketing loan program. - Continues the price-based counter-cyclical program. 	Maintain marketing loans and counter-cyclical payments (Recommendation #1)
<p>Average Crop Revenue (ACR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creates a new ACR program in 2010 (based on state-level revenues). Participation in ACR is optional, but cannot be reversed during the farm bill. Replaces traditional direct payments and non-recourse marketing loans with a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offers producers the one-time option to enroll in a new revenue-based counter-cyclical program in 2008 based on national-level revenues. 	No specific recommendations

<p>Payment Limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retains the current AGI limit for the 2008 crop year - Reduces the AGI limit to \$1 million in 2009 unless more than 67% of AGI is from farming, and to \$750,000 in 2010-2012 - Eliminates the 3-entity rule which allows individuals to double their payments by having multiple ownership interests. - Requires direct attribution of payments to a natural person - Lowers the limit on traditional counter-cyclical payments from \$65,000 to \$60,000 - Relaxes limits by eliminating the \$75,000 limit on the marketing loan program. This results in a \$200,000 limit on direct and counter-cyclical after spouse doubling, and no limits on marketing loans. 	<p>Reforms Payment Limits for Commodity Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Imposes a hard cap of \$ 1 million on average adjusted gross income (AGI) for eligibility to receive farm payments. - Eliminates the three-entity rule that allows producers to collect as much as double the current limit on farm program payments and requires direct attribution of payments to the individuals who receive them. - Reduces the total payment cap for direct and counter-cyclical payments for a single farmers from \$210,000 to \$125,000. - Requires those with AGI of \$500,000 or greater to receive 66.66% of their income from farm, ranch or forestry sources in order to receive farm program payments. 	<p>Payment limitation must be clear and enforceable. The “three-entity” rule needs to be reviewed. (Recommendations #2 & #3)</p>
<p>Planting Flexibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintains fruit and vegetable planting restriction and includes a pilot program in Indiana for processed tomatoes 	<p>Planting Flexibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planting of fruits, vegetables and wild rice are prohibited on base acres unless the commodity, if planted, is destroyed before harvest. - Provides for a planting transferability pilot project in Indiana on 10,000 base acres in relation to processing tomatoes. 	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

<p>Sugar Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Largely identical to House bill, but with two differences: increases loan rate by 6-7% and drops House language prescribing sugar import shipping patterns - Establishes program under which surplus sugar may be converted into ethanol 	<p>Sugar Program</p> <p>Raises the loan rate for sugar to 18.5 cents for cane sugar and 23.5 cents for beet sugar; and changes overall allotment quota to be a minimum of 85% of domestic consumption.</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>
<p>Dairy Provisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as House bill, except there is no provision that allows the Secretary to reduce purchase prices when purchases reach certain levels. - Extends the MILC program through 2012, but raises the payment rate to 45% of the difference between \$16.94 and the monthly market price (when lower). Also increases the per farm payment cap to 4.15 million lbs of annual production (approximately, a 225 cow farm). 	<p>Dairy Provisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Extends the Milk Income Loss Contract Program until 2012. -Supports the price of cheddar cheese, butter and nonfat dry milk by government purchase. -Reestablishes the Dairy Forward Pricing Program, which allows dairy farmers to voluntarily enter into forward contracts with milk handlers. -Extends the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP). -Requires importers and dairy producers in AK, HI, and Puerto Rico to participate in funding the Dairy Research and Promotion Act. 	<p>Continuation of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program is supported. (Recommendation # 6)</p>

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Comparison of the Senate Agriculture Committee-passed Bill with the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendation
Title II-Conservation	Title II - Conservation	Conservation
<p>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Allows enrollment up to 39.2 million acres through 2012. Adds pollinator habitat to resources to be conserved. Expands eligible land to include marginal pastureland if native vegetation is grown and land contributes to restoration of certain forest ecosystem. Makes alfalfa and other forage crops eligible if facilitates ground or surface water savings. Expands eligible land to include land enrolled in flooded farmland program. Exempts land enrolled in CREP from the 25% county acreage.</p>	<p>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Allows enrollment up to 39.2 million acres through 2012. Includes new provision to allow retired landowners participating in CRP to modify their contracts if the land is being transferred to beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer. Makes several changes for additional flexibility.</p>	<p>Provide more flexibility and improve CRP. Need more flexibility to determine what lands are eligible (for example, land for wildlife habitat). Current formula is restrictive. Provisions on haying and grazing need improvement. Allow CRP land to be used for energy production. (Recommendation #99)</p> <p>NASDA generally recommends improving and enhancing all current farm bill conservation programs to allow more flexibility, innovation and local control. (Recommendation # 96)</p> <p>Expand scope of conservation provisions. Current farm bill programs do not adequately address all portions of the landscape, i.e. invasive species, forest management, renewable fuels, and energy. (Recommendation #97)</p>
<p>Flooded Farmland Program (Under CRP) Creates new Flooded Farmland Program within CRP which allows enrollment of flooded crop and grazing land into the program caused by natural overflow of a close basin in the Northern Plains region.</p>	No comparable provision.	No specific recommendation.
<p>Wildlife Habitat Program (Under CRP) Creates a Wildlife Habitat Program available to CRP contract holders that have established softwood pine stands (for years 2008-2012).</p>	No comparable provision.	No specific recommendation.

<p>Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Allows enrollment of 250,000 acres per year. Allows Indian tribes to participate through 30-year contracts. Adds a Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program. Clarifies the amount of compensation shall be lowest of: (1) fair market value; (2) geographic rate cap; or (3) offer made by landowner.</p>	<p>Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Adds 1.3 million acres to program, which could include up to 10,000 acres of floodplain easements each year. Directs USDA to determine the fair market value when evaluating appraisals that are used for payment offers.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) Defines eligible land and entities who can purchase and hold easements. Secretary may enroll land with a producer through 30-year contracts, 30-year easements, or permanent easements. Emphasizes preservation of large, intact landscapes of native and naturalized grassland and shrubland. Allows land to be transferred into program from CRP if no more than 10% of program funds and prohibits duplicate payments.</p>	<p>Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) Allows additional 1 million acres or restored or improved grassland, rangeland or pastureland in program. Land enrolled in GRP no longer eligible for payments under CRP. Changes method for determination of fair market value of land. Makes changes to operation of program to allow third parties to write, own, and hold easements, similar to way the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program is operated.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Comprehensive Stewardship Incentives Program (CSIP) Creates a new Comprehensive Stewardship Incentives Program (CSIP) to better coordinate the two primary working lands programs—EQIP and CSP. This umbrella program requires USDA to coordinate the programs, avoid duplication, and use a consistent process to identify resource needs.</p>	<p>Comprehensive Stewardship Incentives Program (CSIP) No comparable provision.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation. Consistent with NASDA general recommendations to enhance conservation and provide more flexibility and local control. (Recommendation #96)</p> <p>Consistent with NASDA recommendations for Agriculture Stewardship Partnership Agreements. (Recommendation #90)</p>

<p>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Maintains baseline funding through 2012.</p> <p>Forest management, pollinator habitat, and organics are added as eligible activities. Expands definition of structural practice to include firebreaks and fuel breaks.</p> <p>Provides up to 75% cost share, except that socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers could receive 90% or 15% above prevailing share rate. They can receive 30% of the payment in advance for purchases of materials and labor. Limits payments to any individual to \$240,000 over the 5-year contract term.</p> <p>Prohibits duplicate payments for same practice from other programs.</p> <p>Provides individuals who are unsuccessful in obtaining an EQIP contract with priority consideration for a guaranteed loan.</p> <p>Allows Secretary to provide technical assistance, cost-share and incentive payments for water conservation or irrigation practices.</p>	<p>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Expands funding for each year to \$2 billion by 2012. Includes the promotion of forest management and energy conservation in the EQIP program goals, but continues to allocate 60% of funding to livestock. Expands the activities for which a producer can receive incentive payments to include technical services that will help fruit and vegetable producers access the program.</p> <p>Changes the evaluation process of applications to give priority to address state, local or regional resource concerns. Allows for applications that address similar agriculture operations to be considered together. Makes organic certification eligible for cost-share payments. Adds pollinator to the list of practices eligible for incentive payments.</p> <p>Encourages USDA to give priority to proposals for grants and cost-share assistance for the installation of, or improvements to, water conserving technologies to states facing severe drought.</p> <p>Encourages USDA to make incentive payments for advanced soil technologies for erosion, nutrient control, waste transformation, and water-based cleaning technologies for treating farm run-off.</p>	<p>Improve and increase funding for EQIP. (Recommendation #100)</p> <p>Improve and enhance current farm bill conservation programs to allow more flexibility, innovation and local control. (Recommendation # 96)</p>
<p>Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) (Program is within EQIP) Clarifies that purpose of grants are to develop and transfer innovative conservation technology.</p> <p>Seeks to increase participation by specialty crop producers.</p>	<p>Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) (Program is within EQIP) Provides \$20 million per year through 2012. Establishes a comprehensive conservation pilot for the Chesapeake Bay. Provides funds for outreach to fruit, vegetable and organic producers. Adds emphasis on air quality to ensure delivery of incentive and cost-share payments to producers who are dealing with state and local air quality regulations.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation. Consistent with NASDA general recommendations to enhance conservation and provide more flexibility and local control. (Recommendation #96)</p>

<p>Regional Water Enhancement Program (Program is within EQIP)</p> <p>Establishes special administrative rules for projects, including eligible partners, project proposal criteria, goal identification, baseline date, conservation measures to be used, and performance measures.</p>	<p>Regional Water Enhancement Program (Program is within EQIP)</p> <p>Requires USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate partners, including producers, government entities, and tribes, to develop goals and provide coordinated assistance for water quality or water quantity improvement projects on geographic levels beyond that of individual working lands. In addition to funding the geographic priority areas (Chesapeake Bay, Everglades, etc), intends funds to be used in other areas. Allows non-traditional partners, such as municipal water districts, to partner with USDA and farmers.</p>	<p>Consistent with NASDA recommendations to improve and enhance current farm bill conservation programs to allow more flexibility, innovation and local control. (Recommendation # 96)</p>
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<p>Conservation Security Program (CSP) Changes the program name from CSP to Conservation Stewardship Program.</p> <p>Establishes a funding level of \$1.28 billion over existing baseline over 10 years, and allows enrollment of an additional 80 million acres over the next 5 years.</p> <p>Identifies purpose of program to promote agriculture production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Makes program available to wider variety of land, other than forest land.</p> <p>To be eligible, a producer shall submit a contract offer to participate, agree to receive technical services, enter into a contract, and demonstrate to USDA that he/she is addressing priority resources of concern. Establishes criteria for evaluation of contract offers.</p> <p>Requires producers entering program to meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for at least one additional priority resource of concern. Allows for contracts to pay enhancement payments for ongoing implementation.</p> <p>Prohibits contracts from providing for design, construction or maintenance of animal waste storage.</p>	<p>Conservation Security Program (CSP) Restructures the entire program and replaces it with a new, simplified program. Allows all states to participate.</p> <p>Eliminates the three-tiered system and replaces it with an annual stewardship enhancement payment to compensate producers for new and ongoing implementation of conservation practices and activities.</p> <p>Allows for contract modification of existing contracts for farmers participating under the old CSP program.</p>	<p>Expand scope and eligibility of CSP to allow all producers nationwide to participate in the program. (Rec. # 98)</p> <p>Original CSP is similar to NASDA concepts and recommendations for Agriculture Stewardship Partnership Agreements. The House bill brings the program closer to NASDA proposals. (Rec. # 90)</p>
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<p>Farm and Ranchland Protection Program Reauthorized at baseline levels. Emphasizes limiting non-agricultural uses of land. Clarifies eligibility definition. Adds furthering a state or local policy as a new eligible land category and strikes that land must be subject to a pending offer. Broadens incidental land and forest land that contributes to economic viability of an ag operation as eligible. Stipulates terms and conditions for cooperative agreements including allowing the eligible entity flexibility to use their own terms and conditions. Requires an appraisal that complies with uniform professional standards. Limits amount USDA can share in costs of purchasing the easement to 50% of the appraised fair market value. Establishes minimum amounts entities pay based on amount of landowner contributions.</p>	<p>Farm and Ranchland Protection Program Expands funding each year. Includes changes to address numerous administrative concerns by establishing a more user-friendly certification process that will determine eligibility for program funds. Allows USDA to enter into agreements for other eligible entities, with certain requirements to protect the easement, but without onerous legalities that have delayed and discouraged contracts.</p>	<p>Increase funding to \$300 million annually. (Recommendation # 93)</p> <p>NASDA makes a number of detailed recommendations to enhance effectiveness of FRPP, including (1) change definition of eligible land; (2) create a category of qualified entities; (3) relax the match requirement to allow landowners to donate up to 50% of the match. (Recommendation # 94)</p>
<p>Market-Based Approaches to Conservation Directs USDA Secretary to develop a framework, including standards and procedures, to help producers and landowners participate in environmental service markets. Requires the initial focus to be on carbon markets. Requires 3 progress reports to Congress.</p>	<p>Market-Based Approaches to Conservation Includes language based on the Administration’s Farm Bill proposal on promotion of market-based approaches to deal with environmental issues. Establishes an Environmental Services Standards Board and provides grants to facilitate development of private sector market-based approaches for environmental goods and services involving agriculture. Authorized at \$50 million.</p>	<p>NASDA general recommendations and policy statements support and advocate market-based approaches.</p>

<p>Administration, Partnerships & Cooperation</p> <p>Requires Secretary to develop a streamlined application process for conservation programs. Requires Secretary, at request of landowner, to cooperate with Secretary of Interior and Commerce to make Safe Harbor assurances available to landowner under the Endangered Species Act. Allows producers to apply through a producer organization for large projects.</p> <p>Allows USDA to designate special projects that allow producers to participate in projects that: (1) affect multiple ag operations; (2) help producers meet environmental laws; (3) facilitate cumulative conservation benefits in geographic areas; or (4) promote development of innovative conservation methods.</p> <p>Allows USDA to enter into agreements with wide range of partners.</p>	<p>Administration, Partnerships & Cooperation</p> <p>No comparable provision.</p>	<p>Administration, Partnerships & Cooperation</p> <p>Similar to NASDA concepts and recommendations for Agriculture Stewardship Partnership Agreements. Senate provisions brings administration of conservation program closer to NASDA proposals. (Rec. # 90)</p>
<p>Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)</p> <p>Adds incentive payments and increases percentage of funds that can be used for long term projects from 15% to 25%. . USDA to encourage cooperative arrangements among participants, state and local government, and non-governmental organizations. Agreements are up to 5-year terms, describe management strategies and practices, including periodic monitoring.</p>	<p>Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)</p> <p>Extends program.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>

<p>Open Fields Program No comparable provision.</p>	<p>Open Fields Program Creates a new program to provide grants/incentives to state governments and tribes to encourage owners of privately-held farm, ranch or forestland to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife dependent recreation, i.e. hunting and fishing. Authorizes \$20 million per year for FY08-12.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Regional Water Enhancement Program (RWEP) No comparable provision.</p>	<p>Regional Water Enhancement Program (RWEP) Creates a new program that allows cooperative agreements between USDA and producers, local or state government, and others to improve regional water quality or quantity in priority areas. Authorizes \$60 million per years FY08-12.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation. Consistent with NASDA recommendations for Agriculture Stewardship Partnership Agreements. (Recommendation #90) Consistent with NASDA Recommendation # 104 to expand and further develop green payment options for producers and use program eligibility standards as targeting mechanisms to increase conservation efforts.</p>
<p>Delivery of Technical Assistance Updates definition of technical assistance. Stipulates that Secretary may provide technical assistance directly, through a contract with third party provider, or at option of producer, through a payment to the producer for a third-party provider. Requires Secretary to review certification requirements. Contracts with third-party providers have a term limited to 3 years. Enhances technical assistance for specialty crop, organic, and precision agriculture producers through cooperative agreements., and use of local resources.</p>	<p>State Technical Committees Clarifies that State Technical Committees are envisioned to deal not just with technical issues, but also with implementation issues. Encourages State Technical Committees convening subcommittees to review how priorities are set within states, including a review of local work group process. Intended to address concerns about how priorities are set and the inclusion of all agricultural segments.</p>	<p>NASDA general recommendations and policy statements encourage more state/local flexibility and control.</p>

2007 Farm Bill

Comparison of the Senate Agriculture Committee-passed Bill with the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendation
Title III - Trade	Title III - Trade	Trade
<p>Market Access Program - Increases funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) by \$100 million over five years (FY 08-12). The funding over these years would be as follows:</p> <p>\$210 million in FY 08 \$220 million in FY 09 \$230 million in FY 10 \$240 million in FY 11 \$200 million in FY 12</p>	<p>Market Access Program Increases funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) by \$125 million over 5 years. This increases the program from \$200 million annually to \$325 million annually.</p>	<p>Market Access Program should be authorized for \$325 million annually. (Recommendation #51)</p>
<p>Foreign Market Development Program - Increases funding by \$20 million over five years (FY 09-12) as follows:</p> <p>\$39.5 million in FY 08 \$39.5 million in FY 09 \$44.5 million in FY 10 \$34.5 million in FY 11 \$34.5 million in FY 12</p>	<p>Foreign Market Development Program Extends the program and keeps funding at \$34.5 million annually.</p>	<p>Foreign Market Development program should be authorized at \$50 million annually (Recommendation #51)</p>

<p>Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Provides \$19 million over five years, an increase of \$24 million from the current baseline.</p>	<p>Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Provides \$38 million to help U.S. organizations address sanitary, phytosanitary and other technical barriers that keep them from exporting to certain other countries.</p>	<p>This provision is supportive of Recommendations # 44, 45, & 46 regarding improvements in facilitating sanitary and phytosanitary measures based on science.</p>
<p>Similar provision included.</p>	<p>Reauthorizes the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. Increases oversight and monitoring of food aid programs.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Export Credit and Subsidy Programs - Includes provisions aimed at reforming or terminating several of these programs, either to come into WTO compliance or ending programs such as Export Enhancement Program. Provisions generate \$23 million in savings over 5 years.</p>	<p>Export Credit Guarantee Programs - Reforms are provided to bring them into compliance with WTO – lifts the fee cap of 1 % on the GSM-102 program and eliminates long term export credit (GSM-103 program).</p>	<p>Export financing and credit guarantee programs (GSM 102-/103) should be expanded to cover transportation costs. (Recommendation #52)</p>

2007 Farm Bill

Comparison of the Senate Agriculture Committee-passed Bill and the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendation
Title IV - Nutrition	Title IV - Nutrition	Nutrition
<p>Food Stamp Program Renames the Food Stamp Program the “Food and Nutrition Program.”</p> <p>Makes numerous changes to program benefit rules: (1) increases the minimum benefit for food stamp recipients; (2) increases and indexes the minimum standard deduction; (3) eliminates cap on deductions for child care expenses; (4) indexes asset limits and excludes certain retirement and educational savings accounts; (5) excludes combat zone pay from eligibility determinations; (6) changes eligibility restrictions for the unemployed.</p> <p>Provides \$5 million in grants to expand use of food stamp EBT cards at Farmers Markets. Clarifies that food stamp nutrition education must promote healthy eating consistent with Dietary Guidelines. Increases penalties and disqualification periods to reduce retail fraud and trafficking. Provides funding for employment & training programs.</p>	<p>Food Stamp Program Reames the Food Stamp Program the “Secure Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program” (SSNAP).</p> <p>Makes numerous changes to program benefit rules to cover food expenses: (1) Increases the minium benefit for food stamp recipients; (2) Raises and indexes the minimum standard deduction; (3) Indexes asset limits and excludes retirement & education benefits; (4) Lifts dependent care cap; (5) Excludes special combat pay as income.</p> <p>Updates program to reflect technological advances and decrease abuse: (1) ends use of food stamp coupons and requires use of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT); (2) increases fines for vendors from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per violation; (3) requires state agency personnel to make eligibility determinations.</p>	<p>Enhance federal domestic food assistance programs. (Recommendation #133)</p> <p>Simplify and ehance the Food Stamp Program: (1) maintain funding and entitlement nature of program; (2) make program more accessible to certain vulnerable populations, such as seniors, working families, and other low-income individuals; (3) make eligibility for low-income elderly and disabled automatic with their food stamp eligibility being determined at the Social Security Office’ (4) increase the minimum benefit to at least \$25 per month; (5) allow states to test a variety of innovative methods that can remove barriers and further streamline eligibility and benefit dtermination process; (6) additional funding for outreach activities. (Recommendation # 142)</p>

<p>Nutrition Education & Promotion to Fight Obesity</p> <p>Under the Food Stamp Program, clarifies that food stamp nutrition education must promote healthy eating consistent with Dietary Guidelines.</p> <p>Provides funding for pilot projects to evaluate health and nutrition promotion in the Food Stamp Program.</p>	<p>Nutrition Education & Promotion to Fight Obesity</p> <p>State agencies can implement nutrition education programs and plans for individuals eligible for food stamps that promotes healthy food choices consistent with dietary guidelines.</p> <p>Establishes a demonstration program to develop and implement solutions to reduce obesity among low-income citizens.</p>	<p>NASDA's nutrition statement says there is a need to emphasize fruit and vegetable consumption in all nutrition programs such as food stamps, WIC, School Lunch, and School Breakfast (i.e. farmers' market coupons) to align with the healthy eating index.</p>
<p>Child Nutrition Programs <i>Details Not Available</i></p>	<p>Child Nutrition Programs</p> <p>Increases funding for the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DOD Fresh) for a total of \$406 million over 5 years.</p>	<p>Increase funding for the DOD Fresh program and give states more flexibility to determine what types of products that schools may order to include all fruits and vegetables. (Recommendation # 132)</p>
<p>Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program</p> <p>Expands USDA's Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program to all 50 states. Provides \$1.13 billion over 5 years. Each state entitled to a minimum of one-percent of funds available annually with additional funding based on proportion of the population. States are responsible for selecting schools to participate and targets benefits to low-income children. USDA required to ensure at least 100 schools are on Indian reservations.</p>	<p>Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program</p> <p>Expands USDA's Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program to all 50 states. Provides \$70 million each year FY08-12 for a total of \$350 million. (language seems to direct funds to 35 elementary or secondary schools in each state, and additional schools in each state in proportion to the student population of the state).</p>	<p>Fund and expand the USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program to all schools in all states. NASDA further recommended that some funding for the program be provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). (Recommendation # 131)</p>
<p>Purchase of Locally Produced Foods</p> <p>Clarifies that institutions participating in the school lunch program are allowed to use a geographic preference for the procurement of locally grown fruits and vegetables.</p> <p>Clarifies that projects under the School Gardens Pilot Programs that promote healthy food education are allowable under the program.</p>	<p>Purchase of Locally Produced Foods</p> <p>USDA will encourage institutions receiving funds under child nutrition programs to purchase locally produced foods.</p>	<p>NASDA's nutrition statement proposes a buy-locally-first approach to provide healthier and fresher commodities, and to halt rising costs of warehousing, shipping, and reprocessing charges.</p>

<p>Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Increases funding and expands SFMNP. Provides additional \$10 million annually in mandatory funding for a total of \$100 million over 5 years.</p> <p>Excludes SFMNP benefits when determining a recipient's eligibility for other programs. Prohibits collection of sales or local tax on purchases of food under the program.</p> <p>Increases funding for Community Food Projects from \$5 million annually with \$10 million in annual mandatory funding.</p>	<p>Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Increases funding and expands SFMNP. Provides \$15 million each year FY08-12 of the funds available to the CCC. Authorizes \$20 m for FY08, \$30m for FY09, \$45m for FY10, \$60m for FY11, and \$75m for FY12.</p> <p>Excludes benefits in determining eligibility of a SFMNP recipient for other programs. Prohibits collection of sales or local tax on purchases of food under the program.</p> <p>Encourages USDA to work with states to allow qualified persons with disabilities to participate in program.</p>	<p>Increase funding to carry out and expand the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) from \$15 million to \$30 million, and provide more state flexibility.</p> <p>NASDA specific recommendations for more state flexibility: a) increase the percentage of SFMNP funds that states can use to cover administrative costs from 8 to 17%; and b) remove the 50% limitation on the use of funds for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, and allow participants to redeem coupons at farm food stands and other retail outlets.</p> <p>Increase the value of the SFMNP benefit that an individual can receive and set a \$20 minimum benefit level. (Recommendations # 136, 137, 138 and 139)</p>
<p>Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Expands funding by additional \$92 million annually in mandatory commodity purchases for distribution through food banks. Provides total \$460 million over 5 years.</p>	<p>Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) TEFAP provides purchased and bonus commodities to states for distribution to households and organizations that prepare meals for needy people.</p> <p>Expands funding for TEFAP each year from \$140m in FY08 to \$250m in FY12.</p>	<p>Provide additional funding for TEFAP food purchases and for TEFAP storage and distribution costs. Expand the variety of food products available for the program. (Recommendation # 140)</p>
<p>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) Provides commodity food packages for low-income women, children and the elderly.</p> <p>Eliminates the preference requirement for women and children. (Under current law, funds for elderly are used only after all mothers and children are served.)</p>	<p>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) Provides commodity food packages for low-income women, children and the elderly.</p> <p>Extends CSFP. Each local agency shall use funds available to provide assistance to low-income elderly, women, infants, and children. Directs USDA to issue regulations on income eligibility standards and criteria.</p>	<p>Provide adequate funding and expand program to all states. Increase elderly access by aligning eligibility criteria with CSFP for women and children. Allow states more flexibility to determine priorities based on their knowledge of local needs, services, and food supply. (Recommendation #141)</p>

<p>Food Safety Commission Establishes a Congressional Bipartisan Food Safety Commission to study and make recommendations for modernizing food safety programs, including organizational and resource requirements which emphasize prevention and are based on risk assessments and best science. <i>*Note: Similar proposal included in the 2002 Farm Bill, but was never implemented.</i></p>	<p>Food Safety Commission No provision</p>	<p>No recommendation.</p>
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Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendation
Title V - Credit	Title V - Credit	Credit
Farm Ownership and Operating Loans - same as House - increases direct farm ownership and operating loan limitations to \$300,000	Farm Ownership and Operating Loans Increases the farm ownership loan limit and the operating loan limit to \$300,000 from \$200,000.	No specific recommendation.
Soil and Water Conservation Protection Loans - Adds a priority for beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as well as for those converting to organic and sustainable farming practices - Adds conversion to organic production and sustainable farming practices as eligible loan purposes	Conservation Loan Guarantee Program - Establishes a program that allows USDA to provide loans to farmers and ranchers to carry out conservation projects. - Requires the Secretary to give priority to: (1) qualified beginning farmers and ranchers; (2) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers; and (3) producers who use the loans to build conservation structures or establish conservation practices.	No specific recommendation.
Borrower Protection Provisions - Eliminates term limits on guaranteed loans and allows all farming experience to be considered when applying for a loan - Allows guaranteed farm ownership debt to be an eligible loan purpose for the direct farm ownership loan.		

<p>Down Payment Loan Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adjusts the interest rate to 4% below standard direct farm ownership or 2%, whichever is greater. - Updates the maximum allowable sales price and changes the maximum from a sales price restriction to a loan size restriction - Decreases the borrower's minimum down payment contribution from 10 to 5 percent of the purchase price. - Allows preference in inventory land sales for beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantage farmers and ranchers 	<p>Credit Program Priorities for Socially Disadvantaged and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increases the amount of direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans for beginning farmers and ranchers; increases the amount for direct farm ownership loans reserved for down payments and direct operating loans for beginning farmers and ranchers. - Makes socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers eligible for the beginning farmer and rancher down payment loan program. - Restores priority given to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers whenever the Secretary sells or leases property. 	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Beginning Farmer Land Contract Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Makes the land contract guaranteed loan pilot program permanent and nationwide - Encourages private land sales that transfer farms from retiring farmers to new farmers 	<p>Land Contract Pilot Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 percent guarantee. - Makes socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers eligible for the program. 	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
	<p>Tribal Land Acquisitions Loan Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides additional tools to help Native American producers keep tribal lands in agricultural production. - Amends the current program to allow individual tribal members to utilize the program. 	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>

	<p>Competitive Sourcing - Prohibits the Secretary from completing a study of, or entering a contract with, a private party to carry out a competitive sourcing activity, including support personnel, relating to rural development or farm loan programs.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Individual Development Savings Accounts - Establishes a new pilot program to promote matched savings accounts for qualified beginning farmers and ranchers and allows the proceeds to be used on capital expenditures for a farm or ranch operation, including purchases of land, buildings, equipment and livestock.</p>		<p>Similar to NASDA recommendation on Farm Savings Accounts – #26 “Congress should establish Farm Savings and Retirement Accounts as a necessary management tool for U.S. farmers and ranchers.”</p>
<p>CRP For Beginning Farmers and Ranchers - For land that may be leaving the Conservation Reserve Program, incentives are provided to retiring land owner to encourage transfer of that land to beginning or socially disadvantaged producers.</p>		<p>Similar to NASDA recommendations #27 and #28 – NASDA supports tax incentives and capital gains exclusion for selling to first time farm/ranch buyers. Further, new business succession and farmland tenure models must be developed.</p>

2007 Farm Bill

Comparison of the Senate Agriculture Committee-passed Bill with the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendation
Title VI - Rural Development and Investment	Title VI - Rural Development	Rural Development
<p>Definition of Rural Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes definition of rural area to exclude: cities of 50,000, urbanized areas contiguous and adjacent to cities of 50,000 and any collection of census blocks contiguous to each other with a housing density of more than 200 housing units per square mile. - Maintains lower city-size limitations for the commodity facility and rural water and waste water program. 	<p>Definition of Rural</p> <p>Requires the Secretary to submit a report to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees that will (1) assess the varying definitions of rural used by USDA; (2) describe the effects of the varying definitions; and (3) make recommendations to better target funds.</p>	<p>NASDA identified a need for new definitions and eligibility standards so that full use of the funding programs are not restricted in rural areas in proximity of metropolitan and micropolitan areas. (Recommendation #112)</p>
<p>Applies mandatory funding to pending applications for rural water and wastewater assistance.</p>	<p>Water, Waste Disposal and Wastewater Facility Grants</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>NASDA recommended supporting rural development agencies, particularly the Rural Utilities Service, in providing funding to water and waste disposal sectors. (Recommendation #124)</p>

<p>Microenterprise Assistance (new) - Provides technical assistance and small loans to beginning entrepreneurs</p> <p>Rural Collaborative Investment Program (new) - Self-identified areas would form local boards including local government officials, business and nonprofit leaders to apply for the grants - Funds are provided for planning grants to help areas develop plans to improve their economy and quality of life</p>	<p>Advances Economic Development in Rural America - Creates a new Rural Entrepreneur and Microenterprise Assistance Program for small businesses with less than 10 employees. - Extends the Ag Innovation Center Demonstration Program and provides \$6 million for each fiscal year, 2008 through 2012. - Extends Rural Business Opportunity Grants for job training in rural areas and provides \$15 million for each fiscal year, 2008 through 2012. - Creates a preference within the Business and Industry Program for loans and loan guarantees that are used for the processing and distribution of locally or regionally produced ag products.</p>	<p>NASDA recommended that USDA should give attention to farmer-owned cooperatives to increase value of the farmer's and rancher's products and to technical and business planning to small farm and ranch operations with an emphasis on business operating in a local rural community. (Recommendation #129)</p>
<p>Provisions included regarding the rural cooperative development grant program.</p>	<p>Rural Cooperative Development Grants - Extends Rural Cooperative Development Grants, a competitive program that establishes and operates centers for rural cooperative development. - Authorizes an appropriation of \$50 million for each fiscal year through 2012. - Authorizes the Secretary to award grants for a period of more than one year but not more than 3 years and gives the Secretary the discretion to extend for one additional 12-month period for grant use.</p>	<p>NASDA recommended that Congress increase funding for cooperative enterprises and support cooperative development centers and technical assistance to new cooperative enterprise. Also, Congress should provide for multiple-year funding in the grant program. (Recommendations #125, 126 & #128)</p>

<p>Broadband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires that eligible applicants propose to service rural areas where at least 25% of households are not currently offered broadband service. - Stipulates that neither loans nor loan guarantees may be provided to applicants proposing service in an area where there are 3 or more existing service providers. - Authorizes grants to determine precisely what areas do not have broadband 	<p>Grants to Improve Technical Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improves access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas with greater focus on communities of greatest need. -Authorizes the Community Connect Grant Program to provide grants to finance broadband transmissions in rural areas to currently unserved communities. -Extends and makes major changes to the existing broadband program with more focus on rural areas and reduce level of loans going to already sufficiently served. 	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Value Added Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduces maximum grant size from \$500,000 to \$300,000 - Promotes locally grown foods by allowing assistance to help aggregate and sell 	<p>Value-Added Agricultural Market Development Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increases program funding to \$30 million per year, which provides grants for planning and working capital for marketing value-added products. -Creates a 10% set-aside for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers -Creates a 10% set-aside for mid-tier value chains, which are strategic alliances between small to medium-sized farms and other supply chain partners that distribute the benefits of these partnerships. 	<p>NASDA recommended increased funding for value-added producer grants for processing and marketing ventures. (Recommendation #120)</p>

<p>Day Care and Medical Facilities - Provides mandatory funding for day care construction - Provides mandatory funding for rehabilitating and providing equipment for hospitals with fewer than 100 acute beds in towns of less than 20,000</p>	<p>Provisions included for rural medical improvements.</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<p>Similar provision included.</p>	<p>Study of Railroad Issues - Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation, to conduct a study and submit a report to Congress with 9 months of farm bill enactment on railroad issues, with respect to the movement of ag products, domestically produced renewable fuels, and domestically produced resources for the production of electricity in rural America.</p>	<p>NASDA recommended that Congress increase oversight of railroads and that funds be targeted in freight infrastructure, including short line railroads which support the rural economy and benefit the farm industry. (Recommendations #197 & #205)</p>

2007 Farm Bill

Comparison of the Senate Agriculture Committee-passed Bill with the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendations
Title VII - Research	Title VII - Research	Research
Continuing Animal Health & Disease Research - Reauthorizes appropriations to support continuing animal health and disease research programs. Reauthorizes research on National or Regional animal health or disease research or pre-harvest, on-farm food safety	Establishment of Research Laboratories for Animal Diseases - Authorizes the Secretary to establish animal disease research laboratories	Recommendation # 182 calls for a concurrent cooperative research program (plants and animals) through CSREES and ARS to assure that disease control methods are being developed.
No comparable provisions.	USDA Grazing Lands Research Laboratory - Prohibits the Secretary from declaring the land occupied by USDA's lab from being declared surplus Federal property.	No specific recommendation.
See next section	National Agricultural Research Program Offices - Creates 6 offices within the National Program Office in order to streamline agricultural research programs. Six Program Offices are: *Renewable Energy, Natural Resources & 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. A director will be appointed to each office by the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics (REE). Requires the Under Secretary to develop and implement specialty crop research.	No specific recommendation.

<p>National Institute of Food and Agriculture - Restructures the CSREES, and establishes it as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) with increased visibility for competitive programs and the infrastructure or capacity programs. NIFA will be headed by director appointed by the President. Formalizes coordination between USDA's in-house research agency, ARS, and the newly-created NIFA.</p>	<p>Research Provisions - Establishes the National Institute for Food and Agriculture within CSREES to administer all competitive programs. - Establishes a permanent Renewable Energy Subcommittee under the National Advisory Committee - Expands duties of the Speciality Crop Subcommittee - Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response - Limitation on indirect costs for ag research, education and extension programs of no more than 19 percent for any grant administered by the REE mission area.</p>	<p>NASDA supports Congress funding competitive research grant programs.</p> <p>NASDA recommended that Land Grant Universities should evaluate the increasing administrative overhead costs and their impact on ag research and education. (Recommendation #190)</p>
<p>Provides \$80 million for research on specialty crops, including mechanization, plant breeding, genetics, genomics, invasive species, and food safety</p>	<p>Specialty Crop Research Initiative - Provides \$215 million in mandatory funds for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative and authorizes \$100 million for each fiscal year.</p>	<p>NASDA's supports efforts to assist specialty crop producers.</p>
<p>Specialty crops research provisions include authority to research on fresh cut produce.</p>	<p>Fresh Cut Produce Safety Grants - Authorizes the Secretary to award competitive research and extension grants to improve and enhance the safety of fresh cut produce. - Provides \$25 million in mandatory spending for FY's 2008 through 2012, in addition to current authorization for necessary funds.</p>	<p>NASDA lists food safety as an area for increased research funding (Recommendation #189).</p>
<p>Provides \$80 million for organic agriculture research and extension, to enhance the ability of organic producers and processors to grow and market organic food, feed and fiber.</p>	<p>Organic Food and Agriculture Systems Funding Dedicates \$25 million in mandatory funds for organic research priorities for FY's 2008 through 2012 and authorizes \$25 million in appropriations each fiscal year.</p>	<p>NASDA has several recommendations supporting organic research improvements (Recommendations # 192, # 193 and # 194)</p>

<p>Agricultural Biotechnology Research and Development for developing countries Similar provision to the House version.</p>	<p>Agricultural Biotechnology Research and Development for developing countries - Authorizes funds as necessary to make competitive grants to institutions or nonprofit organizations to develop agricultural biotechnology for developing countries.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Includes provisions for biomass research and development.</p>	<p>Bioenergy and Biobased Products Creates a high priority research initiatives for research related to bioenergy and biobased products and \$50 million is authorized for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	<p>NASDA lists bioenergy as an area for increased research funding (Recommendation # 189)</p>
<p>Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Sets a deadline for rulemaking to implement the National Veterinary Medical Service Act, a program for loan repayment for veterinarians who work in areas of veterinarian shortage.</p>		<p>NASDA recommendation 177 – supporting funding of the Veterinary Workforce Enhancement Act</p>
<p>Research on Wheat, Triticale & Barley Reauthorizes appropriation for research on <i>Fusarium sp.</i> Or <i>Tilletia sp.</i></p>		<p>NASDA policy supports this endeavor</p>
<p>Bovine Johne's Disease Control Program Reauthorizes appropriations</p>		<p>NASDA policy supports this endeavor</p>

2007 Farm Bill

Comparison of the Senate Committee-pased Bill with the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendation
Title VIII - Forestry	Title VIII - Forestry	Forestry
<p>National Priorities for Private Forest Conservation -Sets new national private forest conservation priorities: (1) conserving and managing working forests landscapes; (2) protecting forests from threats and restoring forests in response to threats; (3) enhancing public benefits from private forests, including air and water quality, forest products, renewable energy, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Requires report from USDA.</p>	<p>National Priorities for Private Forest Conservation -Sets new national private forest conservation priorities: (1) conserving and managing working forests landscapes; (2) protecting forests from threats and restoring forests in response to threats; (3) enhancing public benefits from private forests, including air and water quality, forest products, renewable energy, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Requires report from USDA.</p>	No specific recommendation.
<p>Long-Term State-wide Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources Requires states to develop and submit assessment of forest resources on annual basis, including strategies for addressing threats.</p>	<p>Long-Term State-wide Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources Requires states to develop and submit assessment of forest resources on annual basis, including strategies for addressing threats.</p>	No specific recommendation.
<p>Healthy Forest Reserve Program No provision.</p>	<p>Healthy Forest Reserve Program Extends program to 2012 and provides \$17 million in mandatory funding. Purpose of the program is to help private landowners and promote recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve biodiversity, and enhance carbon sequestration.</p>	No specific recommendation.
<p>Community Forest and Open Space Program Establishes new grant program that provides federal cost share of not more than 50 percent of the cost to acquire one or more parcels of land. Purpose is to enhance community benefits and provide public access for recreational use.</p>	<p>Community Forest and Open Space Program No provision.</p>	No specific recommendation.

<p>Emergency Forest Restoration Program No provision</p>	<p>Emergency Forest Restoration Program Authorizes USDA to provide financial and technical assistance to owners of non-industrial private forest land who have suffered a loss due to a number of events, including wildfires, hurricanes, drought, and windstorms. Also to assist in development of plans to restore and rehabilitate non-industrial private forest land, use best management practices. Provides up to 75% cost-share and limits amount that an owner may receive to \$50,000 per year.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Competition in Programs under Cooperative Forest Assistance Act No provision.</p>	<p>Competition in Programs under Cooperative Forest Assistance Act Authorizes USDA to competitively allocate a portion of funds to state foresters or equivalent state officials. Authorizes USDA to competitively allocate not more than 5% of funds to support innovative initiatives, regional or local education, outreach or technology projects. USDA will not cover more than 50% of the total cost of a project.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Forest Landowner Assistance Under current law, the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) provides financial assistance to private landowners for forestry activities (\$100 million in mandatory spending). Some funds were borrowed for firefighting, others were cancelled. Senate Bill has no provision and allows program to expire.</p>	<p>Forest Landowner Assistance No provision and allows program to expire.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>

2007 Farm Bill

Comparison of the Senate Agriculture Committee-passed Bill with the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendation
Title IX - Energy	Title IX - Energy	Energy
<p>Federal Procurement of Biobased Products - Provides \$4 million per year to continue the federal biobased products procurement program and to fund competitive grants to promote bioenergy education and awareness.</p>	<p>Federal Procurement of Biobased Products - Clarifies 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.</p>	<p>NASDA Recommendation # 160 supports research and development for energy and biobased crops at USDA and other key federal agencies.</p>
<p>Bioenergy Production - Provides \$422 million for competitive grants and loan guarantees for pilot, demonstration and commercial-scale biorefinery development and construction as well as to re-power existing biorefineries and other rural facilities with renewable energy.</p>	<p>Loan Guarantees for Biorefineries and Biofuel Production Plants - Provides loan guarantee authority for biorefineries, with half going to loans less than \$100 million, and the other half for loans up to \$250 million. Loan guaranteed may cover up to \$2 billion in loans. Requires that construction contractors and subcontractors on federally assisted loan guarantee projects pay their employees not less than the prevailing wage in the same locality under the Davis-Bacon Act.</p>	<p>NASDA Recommendation # 147 supports implementation of the 25 X '25 initiative and recommendation # 169 supports increased investment in agriculture as an energy source.</p>

<p>Rural Energy Systems - Invests \$270 million in the Rural Energy for America Program, which expands the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grants and loans program and provides that 15% of funding in this program be set aside for projects that convert animal waste to energy.</p>	<p>Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Program - Increases funding for the Renewable Energy & Efficiency Improvements Program, to be renamed the Rural Energy for America Program. Increases funding from the current \$3 million to \$50 million in 2008, ramping up to \$150 million in 2012.</p>	<p>NASDA recommendation # 154 supports establishment of on-farm incentives to produce and utilize various types of bioenergy; biofuels and bioproducts.</p>
<p>Authorizes a grant program for entities providing technical assistance to assess energy needs, improve energy efficiency, and assist with the utilization of renewable energy technologies by ag producers and rural small businesses.</p>	<p>Farm Energy Production Pilot Program - Requires the Secretary to establish a pilot program to provide grants to farmers to demonstrate the feasibility of making farms energy-neutral using existing technologies.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Includes rural community energy systems renewal projects</p>	<p>Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative - Authorizes the Secretary to make cost-share grants to enable eligible rural communities develop renewable energy systems to increase their energy self-sufficiency. Authorizes \$5 million in 2008 and such sums as necessary in 2009-2012.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Bioenergy Program - Invests \$245 million in the Bioenergy Program to help biorefineries purchase feedstocks for advanced biofuel production.</p>	<p>Bioenergy Program - Provides funding to continue the Bioenergy Program, which provides production incentives for increases in production of ethanol and biodiesel made from ag and forestry crops and associate waste materials, including animal manure and livestock/food processing waste.</p>	<p>NASDA recommendation # 148 supports the Bioenergy Program and recommendation #149 emphasized that development of alternative fuels should come from ag commodities, livestock manures, forest products, ag crop residues, food processing byproducts and other biomass products.</p>

<p>Biodiesel Fuel Education Program - Continues the program at \$2 million per year</p>	<p>Biodiesel Fuel Education Program - Provides \$10 million to continue the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program as funding is made available.</p>	<p>Recommendation # 168 supports this education program and its expansion.</p>
<p>Bioenergy Production - Provides \$197 million to initiate dedicated biomass crop production through incentive payments to farmers to cover production, harvesting, transport and storage costs.</p>	<p>Biomass Energy Reserve Program - Establishes 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. - Provides for an incentive for producers to harvest, store, and transport biomass to bioenergy facilities. - Offers an incentive to help farmers learn how to plant and cultivate these feedstocks in a cost-effective manner.</p>	<p>NASDA recommendation # 156 supports the development of a cellulosic/energy feedstock base and suggested participants enrolling land into contracts to grow certain perennials. NASDA recommendation # 155 goes further in allowing CRP lands to be used for energy and biobased crops.</p>
<p>Includes research, development and application program for woody biomass and community wood energy program</p>	<p>Forest Bioenergy Research Program - Provides \$75 million to create a program to address the specific issues facing the use of woody biomass for bioenergy production.</p>	<p>Recommendations # 149 and # 169 both included support for bioenergy production from forest products and biomass.</p>
<p>Rural Energy Research and Development - Invests \$75 million in research through the Biomass Research and Development Program - Implements a regional crop research program of side-by-side bioenergy crop experiments at 10 dispersed land-grant universities and provides \$45 million in funding for this program - Improved energy program coordination within USDA</p>	<p>Biomass Research and Development Program and other provisions - Extends this program from the 2002 farm bill (Section 9008) through 2012 - Requires the Secretary to conduct an inventory of biomass resources on a county-by-county basis. - Creates an Energy Council in the Office of the Secretary to coordinate energy policy at USDA.</p>	<p>NASDA recommendations in general support further development biomass research and programs.</p>

2007 Farm Bill

Comparison of the Senate Agriculture Committee-passed Bill with the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendations
Title I - Producer Income Protection	Title X - Horticulture & Organic Agriculture	
<p>Specialty Crops Block Grant Program - Provides \$270 million in mandatory funding over five years to expand the program of block grants to state departments of agriculture. - Definition of state includes the 50 states and Puerto Rico as provided in the House bill and includes Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands. - Includes a census of specialty crops as part of the general census of agriculture - Authorizes a grant program to improve the movement of specialty crops with discretionary funds - Creates the Healthy Food Enterprise Development Center through a competitive grant process. The mission of the center is to increase access to healthy, affordable foods to underserved communities, \$7 million in mandatory funds. -</p>	<p>Specialty Crops Block Grant Program and other provisions - Provides \$365 million in mandatory funding to expand the specialty crop block grant program to state departments of agriculture. (Minimum grant \$100,000 per year.) - Definition changed to include “horticulture” crops. - Include a census of specialty crops as part of the general census of agriculture. - Expands the USDA’s purchase of fruits, vegetables and nuts by \$406 million using Section 32 funds - Provides \$32 million in mandatory funds to expand opportunities for direct-to-consumer marketing, including the extension of the Farmers’ Marketing Promotion Program - Authorizes a grant program to improve the movement of specialty crops and authorizes funds for specialty crop market news activities.</p>	<p>NASDA’s recommendation # 57 supports amending the current authorization and provide mandatory funding for a specialty crops block grant program that provides each state a base grant of \$2 million.</p>

<p>Organic Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides \$5 million for organic data collection to provide better price and yield information - \$22 million in new money to help farmers transition into organic production through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program 	<p>New Funding to Support Organic Farmers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - Authorizes \$50 million over 5 years to provide technical assistance and cost-sharing grants to producers converting to organic production practices. 	<p>NASDA recommendations # 63 and # 66 support the cost-share program and data collection for organic farmers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides \$20 million to establish a national network of diagnostic centers to ensure safe root stocks for nursery crops. 	<p>Additional Horticulture Provisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Requires USDA report on response and strategies to Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder. -Makes nursery tree growers eligible under the Tree Assistance Program and future disaster assistance programs. Changes the \$75,000 limitation on assistance to \$150,000 per year. -Fresh Produce Education Initiative. Authorizes a program to educate persons involved in the fresh produce industry and the public about ways to reduce pathogens in fresh produce and sanitary handling practices. 	<p>USDA report on Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder is consistent with NASDA policy and action items.</p> <p>Fresh Produce Initiative is similar to NASDA recommendation # 143 encouraging pre-harvest food safety programs.</p>

<p>Pest and Disease Management Similar provisions to the House version are contained in S.2242 Heartland, Habitat, Harvest and Horticulture Act of 2007 (Finance Committee) – section entitled Pest and Disease Management and Disaster - In addition the Seanate version contains provisions for Livestock Indemnity Payments and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish.</p>	<p>Pest and Disease Management -Establishes a new program to: (1) conduct early pest detection and surveillance activities in coordination with state departments of agriculture; (2) determine and prioritize pest and disease threats to domestic production of specialty crops; (3) create an audit-based certification approach to protect against the spread of plant pests and to facilitate the interstate movement of plants and plant products.</p> <p>(Program would be a complimentary program to existing programs funded through the emerging pests and early detection/rapid response (inlcuding CAPS) line items.</p> <p>The programs will be established through cooperative agreements and require cost-share from both the federal goverments and participating states.</p>	<p>Consistent with NASDA policy recommendations to enhance non-native pest and disease identification and eradication/control programs, and similar to Safeguarding Review Principles to expand prevention and early detection/rapid response programs. Consistent with recommendation #179.</p>
<p>Provides that the state of Hawaii and federal agencies will cooperate in preventing the introduction of and controlling invasive species.</p>	<p>Multi-species fruit fly research USDA Secretary shall construct a warehouse and irradiation containment facility in Waimanalo, Hawaii to support fruit fly rearing and sterilization activities.</p>	<p>Consistent with recommendation #183 to support fruit fly preventive release programs by funding new facility construction.</p>

<p>Similar provision in Title I under specialty crops.</p>	<p>National Clean Plant Network Establishes the network as a program in USDA. Secretary shall use the network to develop a sustainable national funding source for clean planting stock programs for horticultural crops determined to be a priority by the Secretary.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
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2007 Farm Bill
Comparison of the Senate Committee-passed Bill with the House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendation
<p>Title X - Livestock Marketing, Regulatory and Related Programs</p> <p><i>(Note: Some provisions of this Title are highlighted in other Titles of this comparison document such as COOL provisions.)</i></p>	No comparable Title	No specific recommendations
<p>Special Counsel - Creates a Special Counsel on Agricultural Competition at USDA for enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act and Agricultural Fair Practices Act. Activities relating to investigations and prosecutions will be combined into one office</p>	No similar provisions	No specific recommendation
<p>Expansion of AFPA - Expands provisions of the Agricultural Fair Practices Act to producer members of associations or cooperatives.</p>	No similar provisions	No specific recommendation
<p>Live Poultry Dealers - Provides USDA enforcement authority over live poultry dealers under the Packers and Stockyards Act.</p>	No similar provisions	No specific recommendation
<p>Wholesale Pork Reporting - Requires the Secretary to conduct a study of wholesale pork reporting under the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act.</p>	No similar provisions	No specific recommendation
<p>Animal ID - Amends the Animal Health Protection Act to make unauthorized use of information obtained through an animal identifications system unlawful. Establishes parameters on the use of such information by the Secretary</p>	No similar provisions	Recommendations 184 and 185 are on animal identification.
<p>National Sheep and Goat Improvement Center - Reauthorizes the National Sheep and Goat Improvement Center which provides assistance to producers for infrastructure development, business development, and research on marketing and the environment. Provides \$1 million in mandatory funds.</p>	No similar provisions	No specific recommendation

2007 Farm Bill

Comparison of the Senate Agriculture Committee-passed Bill and House-passed Bill (H.R. 2419) and NASDA Recommendations

Senate Bill	House Bill	NASDA Recommendations
Title XI Miscellaneous (unless noted otherwise)	Title XI - Miscellaneous Provisions	
<p>Provisions related to Risk Management and Crop Insurance are in Title I of the Senate Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strikes authority for Premium Reduction Plan and requires an independent study of impact of discounts on the crop insurance program and industry - Allows crop insurance companies to access data-mining information for a fee unless access to data is required for compliance - Raises the administrative fee for catastrophic insurance coverage from \$100 to \$200 per crop per county; Increases the admin fee for Noninsured Assistance Program from \$100 to \$200 per crop per county. - Requires FCIC to develop policies to insure dedicated energy crops and aquaculture operations; to study how to incorporate the use of skiprow cropping practices; and to improve organic agriculture insurance coverage - Provides an alternative process for developing crops insurance products, in the form of reimbursement grants - Allows renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement - Allows producers who raise livestock under contract to be eligible for crop insurance - Implements timing shift for farmers paying premiums and companies receiving A&O reimbursement 	<p>Federal Crop Insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides eligible producers the option to purchase supplemental area-based crop insurance in addition to individual yield or revenue policies, if area coverage is available in the producers' area. - Expands data mining for crop insurance records to reduce waste, fraud and abuse. - Creates a new process allowing FCIC to begin sharing the financial risk of developing a new crops insurance product. Under current law, proponents of new crops insurance policies risk bearing all of the costs. - Reforms crop insurance to provide better coverage for organic producers, including directing USDA to discover prices organic products receive in the marketplace so those prices can be incorporated in crop insurance options for organic crops and to conduct a risk analysis on differences between conventional and organic crops. - Increases USDA's focus on risk management education for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers. - Decreases reimbursements to crop insurance companies. - Authorizes renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement to ensure that the crop insurance market reflects current conditions. 	<p>Among recommendations on risk management tools, NASDA recommended that USDA should base crop insurance price elections for organic crops on organic prices rather than conventional crop prices and crop insurance must be made available for alternative and non-traditional crops. (Recommendations #13 & 14)</p>

<p>State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Creates a new, optional Title V program for states and companies that want to sell state-inspected meat and poultry in interstate commerce. Covers establishments with up to 25 employees. Reimburses states for not less than 60% of costs for operating the new program. Establishes a position of State Coordinator, who is a federal employee, to provide oversight of plants to ensure compliance with federal requirements.</p>	<p>State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Allows interstate shipment and sale of state-inspected meat and poultry. Incorporates language from H.R. 2315 (Pomeroy-Blunt bill), including requirements that state inspection programs be “identical” to the federal program.</p>	<p>Allow the interstate shipment and sale of state-inspected meat and poultry and increase competition in the marketplace. (Recommendation #133).</p> <p>NASDA negotiated compromise Senate proposal with other stakeholders.</p>
<p>Livestock and Poultry Contracts in Title X Livestock Marketing and Regulatory Programs - Amends the PSA to require integrators to give 90 days’ notice before terminating a contract with a producer who has made a capital investment of at least \$100,000 to fulfill the contract; requires that any contract arbitration clause be voluntary; gives producers new rights to terminate a contract early; among other changes.</p>	<p>Arbitration of Livestock and Poultry Contracts - Directs the Secretary to develop rules and regulations related to arbitration between producers and processors. Provides that a producer may seek relief in a small claims court for disputes.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p>Country-of-Origin Labeling in Title X Livestock Marketing and Regulatory Programs - Senate language is similar and makes macadamia nuts a covered commodity.</p>	<p>Country-of-Origin Labeling - Establishes three labeling options for meat: (1) U.S. Country of Origin label for animals born, raised and slaughtered in the U.S.; (2) Mixed origin meat label for animals that were not exclusively born, raised and slaughtered in the U.S.; and (3) Imported meat label for animal from foreign countries. - Allows for ground meat products to be labeled with a narrative list of countries from which the products could be derived; percentages are not required. - Provides verification of origin through existing documentation.</p>	<p>NASDA recommended that rules of origin should be clarified with respect to the transshipment and processing of animals. The origin of a product should be where the animal is born and raised. Further processing of the animal should not change the status of origin. (Recommendation # 69)</p>

Provided in Title X Livestock Marketing and Regulatory Programs	Sense of Congress regarding pseudorabies eradication program: Secretary should recognize the threat feral swine pose to the domestic swine population and consider the implementation of a national strategy for a pseudorabies eradication program a priority.	No specific recommendation.
Provided in Title X Livestock Marketing and Regulatory Programs	Sense of Congress regarding low pathogenic avian influenza: Secretary of Agriculture has compensated owners of poultry and cooperating State agencies at 100 percent of eligible costs, and the Secretary should continue to do so.	No specific recommendation
Provided in Title X Livestock Marketing and Regulatory Programs	Sense of Congress regarding cattle fever tick eradication program: Cattle fever tick and the southern cattle tick are vectors of a severe and often fatal disease of cattle. The Secretary should consider the implementation a national strategic plan for a cattle fever tick eradication program as a high priority.	No specific recommendation
Senate version includes similar provision regarding a farmworker coordinator.	Establishes a farmworker coordinator in the Office of the Outreach; establishes a coordinator for chronically underserved rural areas; establishes a Minority Farmer and Rancher Advisory Committee	No specific recommendation
Includes provisions for consulting with interested stakeholders regarding sanitary and phytosanitary issues with fruits and vegetables.	Amends current law to require the Secretary to coordinate fruit and vegetable market analyses with the private sector and Foreign Agricultural Service; requires USDA to list on the Internet the status of export petitions, an explanation of SPS issues; and information on import requirements for fruits and vegetables.	NASDA has various policy recommendations regarding improvements in SPS issues which are consistent.
Includes provisions for Beginning Farmers in Credit Title.	Funds the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program with \$15 million per year in mandatory funding.	Recommendation # 130 supports the recommendations of the National Commission on Small Farms and the Secretary's advisory committee on Small Farms which includes support for small farmers and ranchers, including beginning farmers & ranchers.

<p>Senate versions includes provisions related to improving outreach and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.</p>	<p>Socially Disadvantaged Producers and Limited Resource Producers - Establishes mandatory funding of \$15 million per year for 5 years for a total of \$75 million for the Section 2501 Outreach and Technical Assistance Program. - Requires USDA to annually compile application and participation rate data for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in USDA programs.</p>	<p>Recommendation # 130 supports the recommendations of the National Commission on Small Farms and the Secretary’s advisory committee on Small Farms which includes support for small farmers and ranchers, including socially disadvantaged producers and limited resource producers.</p>
<p>County FSA offices - Includes a definition of “critical access county FSA office” and provides a delay in closures.</p>	<p>County offices (Sec. 11036) One year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may not close or relocate a county or field office of the Farm Service Agency, Rural Development Agency, or Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture.</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>