

United States Senate Committee on
**AGRICULTURE
NUTRITION
& FORESTRY**

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman

The Farm Bill is a Jobs Bill

Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012

Agriculture represents a **bright spot in the U.S. economy** and is underpinning the nation's economic recovery. Failure to pass a Farm Bill before the current bill expires in September would send waves of **job-killing uncertainty** through a sector **critical to our economic recovery**.

- **American agriculture supports 16 million American jobs.**
- Agriculture is one of the only sectors of the U.S. economy that boasts a **trade surplus** totaling \$42.5 billion in 2011, **the highest annual surplus on record**.
- Exports totaled **\$136 billion** in 2011 – a **270 percent increase** from 2000.
- Every \$1 billion in agricultural exports represents approximately **8,400 American jobs**.
- Agriculture supports **jobs in rural and urban areas alike**, creating not just farm but also equipment manufacturing, bio-based manufacturing, food and fiber processing, bio-energy production, retail, and many other forms of jobs in every corner of the country.

The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012 continues building on the agriculture economy's momentum. Passing a new Farm Bill will provide the certainty that producers need to continue innovating and producing the world's safest, healthiest and most abundant food supply. The Senate Farm bill reduces the deficit by \$23 billion dollars, while still increasing investment in successful jobs initiatives that strengthen:

- **Export opportunities** to help farmers find new global markets for their goods.
- Help for family farmers to sell locally, **increasing support for farmers' markets** and spurring the creation of food hubs to connect farmers to schools and other community-based organizations.
- Training and access to capital to make it easier for **beginning farmers** to get off the ground.
- Initiatives to help **American veterans** start agriculture businesses.
- **Growth in bio-based manufacturing** (using agricultural products to replace petroleum-based plastics in manufactured goods) to create rural agriculture and urban manufacturing jobs.
- Innovation in **bio-energy production**, supporting non-food based advanced biomass energy production such as cellulosic ethanol and woody biomass power.
- **Research** to promote the commercialization of new agricultural innovations.
- **Extending rural development initiatives** to help rural communities upgrade infrastructure, extend broadband internet availability and create a better environment for small businesses.