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# Farm Bill 2018



# What is a Farm Bill


## **Farm Bill 101**

The major agricultural legislation in the US, which expires approximately every 5 years. The Farm Bill outlines provisions on commodity programs, trade, conservation, credit, agricultural research, food stamps, and marketing.



# Farm Bill 2018

- Current Farm Bill was enacted in 2014
- “Evolutionary not Revolutionary”
- Hearings in the Agriculture Committees took place last spring and summer.
- Schedule for passage in committee and Congress.



# How a Farm bill is Put Together

## 3 Primary Agriculture Categories

- Commodities
- Conservation and rural development
- Crop Insurance

The Nutrition Title

Renewed or revised every 5 to 7 years




# Brief History of Farm Programs

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Began in 1931 in response to Great Depression and Dust Bowl in Great Plains.

Provided price floor and managed production to stabilize rural population.

Programs were “a temporary solution to deal with an emergency.” (Henry Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture under Pres. Franklin Roosevelt)

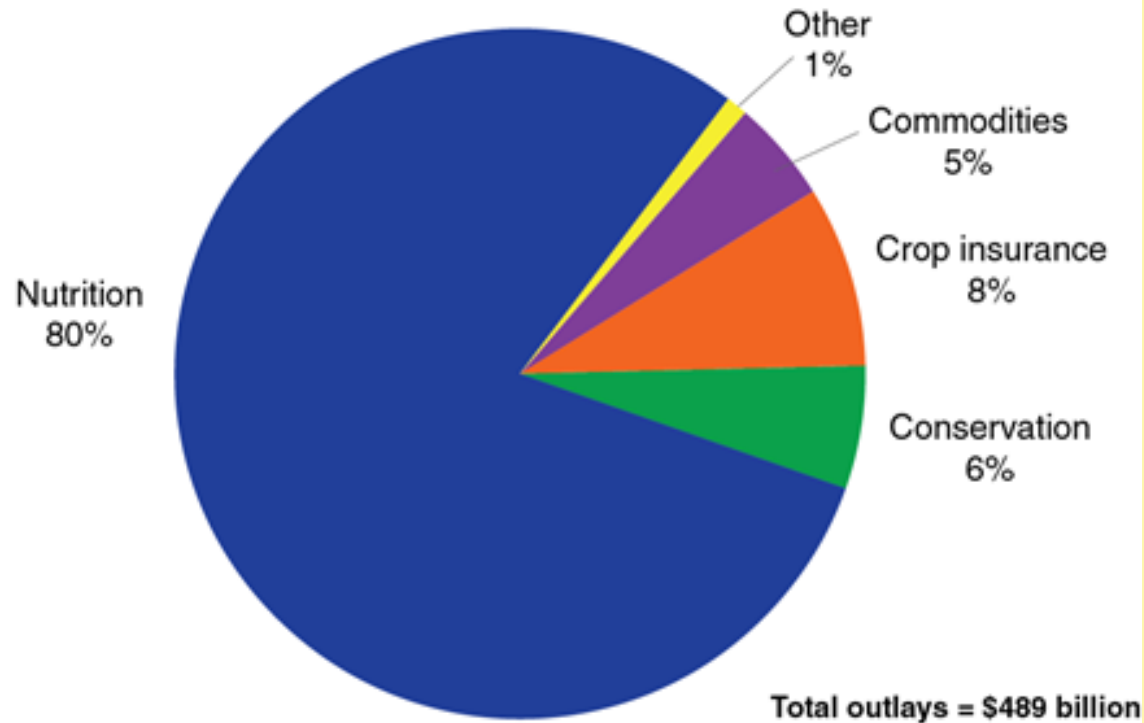


# Significant points in History

- Supply management part and parcel with farm programs until 1996.
- Conservation Reserve Program authorized in 1985.
- Food and nutrition programs moved into Farm Bill by Dole-McGovern coalition, 1996.
- EQIP authorized in 1996
- “Freedom to Farm” bill in 1996 attempts to decouple subsidies from production.
- 2002 Farm Bill reestablishes link of subsidies to production, with no federal reserve or acreage controls.
- Conservation Security Program authorized in 2002, first funded in 2004, and severely cut back in 2006.

# Projected spending \$489B over 5 years

Projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Act, 2014-2018



Source: USDA Economic Research Service using data from Congressional Budget Office, Cost Estimates for the Agricultural Act of 2014, Jan 2014.



# Why is Kansas important?

- Every member of the Kansas delegation either serves a district where agriculture is a primary economic engine, or serves on an important agriculture committee.
- Sen. Pat Roberts. Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee.
- Sen. Jerry Moran. Chair, Sub-committee on Agriculture Appropriations.
- Rep. Roger Marshall, member, House Agriculture Committee.
- Rep. Kevin Yoder, member, House Sub-committee on Agriculture Appropriations.





# Current state of affairs

- Budget is flat-lined;
- Timeline is focused on next spring;
- What are the tensions?



# Conservation

## ➤ Sustainability

- ✓ overproduction
- ✓ fertilizers and pesticides
- ✓ responsible farming practices

## ➤ Competition for resources

- ✓ at risk of taking a bigger cut
- ✓ Limits incentives for sustainable farming practices
- ✓ threatens protection of wild lands/sprawl





# Conservation: Working Lands Program

- EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- CSP Conservation Security Program
- ACEP Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- RCCP Regional Conservation Partnership Program



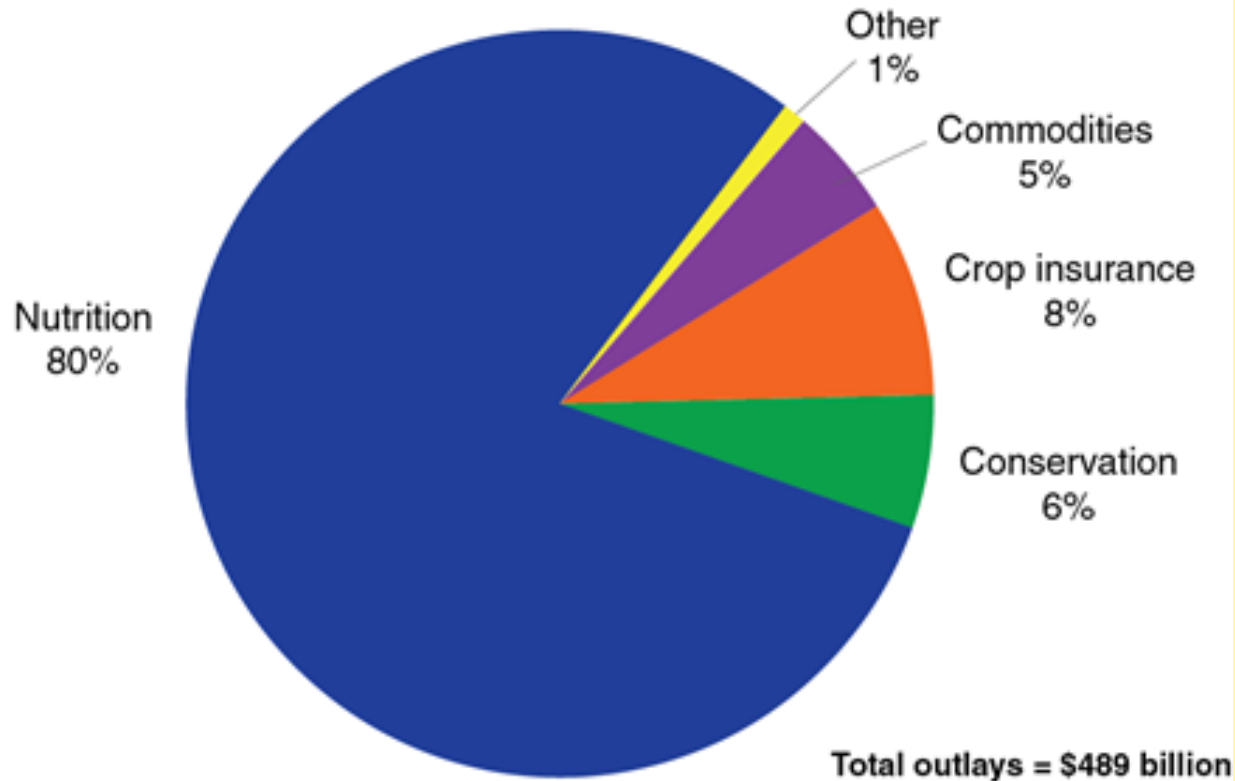
# Conservation: Land Retirement Programs

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- CRP Conservation Reserve Program
- 24M acre cap

# Spending by title

## Projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Act, 2014-2018



Source: USDA Economic Research Service using data from Congressional Budget Office, Cost Estimates for the Agricultural Act of 2014, Jan 2014.



# Marker bills

- Local Food and Regional Market Supply Act (the “Local FARMS Act”)
- Sodsaver Act
- Working Lands Conservation Act (projected release before December)
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act



What can you do?