



# A SEAT AT THE TABLE: Diversity and the 2008 Farm Bill

## A Report on the Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative





## About the Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative

The *Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative (FFPDI)* was established to ensure that organizations serving people of color in the food system had the opportunity to develop from their own initiatives a comprehensive food and agriculture policy agenda. Their goal was to secure access to the same opportunities open to other producers the 2008 farm bill. The DI and its partners sought to improve equity farm bill through policies that increase transparency and accountability and by building bridges between the diverse leaders engaged in food and farm policy development.

The FFPDI represents the rural and urban agricultural interests of African American, American Indian, Latino, Asian American, faith-based organizations, farmworkers and a broad base of supporters of equity and justice. The involvement of organizations of color in the farm bill policy debate is crucial not only to halt land and farm loss by eliminating the factors that cause it, but also to expand opportunities and restore access for populations that seek prosperity in the food system. Organizations that represent people of color have been steeped in the struggles for a better way of life for some of the most vulnerable communities in the U.S. and beyond. As such, these leaders are well positioned and qualified to contribute the often strongest and most straightforward policy solutions for improving the sustainability and viability for everyone in the food system.

*Diversity Initiative (DI) Policy Team* - The DI is led by a crosscutting Policy Team established in July 2006 to synthesize existing policy into proposals to expand diversity and equity in the 2008 farm bill. Our leaders have long term and substantive relationships with policy makers, having worked for as many as three decades to bring justice and equity to food and farm policy. Through their previous collaboration, changes were secured in the 1987 Agriculture Credit Act, and the first Minority Farmers Rights section was developed and passed in the 1990 Farm Bill. The team expanded its members and allies in each subsequent farm bill debate, including new constituencies that have grown to serve emerging needs in food and agriculture. The diverse partner organizations of the FFPDI have deep roots in the civil rights and rural and urban movements to secure land and justice, including the struggle to stem the historic loss of African American farms. They possess the knowledge and experience to address these issues as they occur today. The collaborative work and interests of the DI Participants with respect to farm and food policy encompass a wide array of issues that are integral to other parts of the larger Farm and Food Policy Project.

### Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative Policy Team

- Savi Horne, *Land Loss Prevention Project, Policy Team Co-Chair*
- Ross Racine, *Intertribal Agriculture Council, Policy Team Co-Chair*
- Jerry Pennick and John Zippert, *Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund*
- Rudy Arredondo, *National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association*
- Lloyd Wright, *former USDA Director of Civil Rights, Independent Consultant*
- Albert Jacquez and Antonio Gonzalez, *William C. Velasquez Institute*
- Michael Harris, *Institute for Community Resource Development*
- Daniel Cordalis, *National Congress of American Indians*
- Tirso Moreno, *Farmworker Association of Florida*
- Chukou Thao, *National Hmong American Farmers*
- Mily Trevino-Saucedo, *Organización en California de Lideres Campesinas*
- Edmund Gomez, *New Mexico State University*
- Brett Malone, *ALBA*
- Anim Steel, *The Food Project*
- Quinton Robinson, *Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, Policy Advisor*
- Lorette Picciano, *Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, Policy Team Coordinator*



## A SEAT AT THE TABLE: **Diversity and the 2008 Farm Bill** **A Report on the Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative**

### **Introduction**

While justice and inclusion are often cited as critical goals in the farm policy arena, efforts to achieve real diversity often fall short and miss the important opportunities and advantages true inclusion would provide. Past farm bills have failed farmers of color and the USDA continues to conduct business as usual, resulting in a slow yet inexorable decline in the number of farms owned and operated by people of color.

Our nation's agricultural producers are becoming increasingly ethnically diverse. While minority producers are only 5 percent of all U.S. producers, minority consumers now exceed 30 percent of the total U.S. population. This sector of the agriculture economy has experienced significant land loss and decreased rural economic opportunity as a result of inadequate policies at the United States Department of Agriculture. Historically, USDA policies and programs have underserved socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, a problem that continues unabated today. Moreover, the USDA still fails to recognize farmworkers as a part of production agriculture.

The USDA has long failed to provide opportunities to engage socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in providing culturally appropriate and nutritious food to our increasingly diverse population. More than 10 percent of the nation's specialty crop producers are socially disadvantaged farmers, with a unique ability to produce culturally appropriate foods that would serve the needs of their communities including school lunch and other nutrition programs. Yet these producers and their community based cooperatives and associations are rarely afforded the information, resources and opportunity to participate in these programs.

### **Addressing a History of Exclusion in the 2008 Farm Bill**

Over the past two decades, three milestones occurred that defined the relationship between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and farmers of color.

In 1997, the USDA issued its Civil Rights Action Team Report (CRAT). The report found that "minority and limited resource farmers look to the USDA's discrimination in managing benefit programs as responsible for their involuntary loss of land. They charge that USDA has long tolerated discrimination in the distribution of program benefits and misuse of power to influence landownership and farm profitability. They blame farm program regulations that intentionally or not shut out minority and limited resource farmers and ranchers from the benefits of the programs that have helped larger non-minority producers survive the changes in agriculture in the past 50 years. And they blame USDA insensitivity to the deferring needs of minority and limited resource customers and neglect of its responsibility to reach out and serve all who need USDA's assistance."

"I applaud the Diversity Initiative for their consistent hard work and commitment during the long and often difficult farm bill process. Thanks in no small part to the Initiative's efforts and advocacy, Congress crafted the first ever farm bill that takes significant steps in creating greater equity and diversity in American agriculture. I thank the Diversity Initiative for serving as a voice to smaller and socially-disadvantaged farmers, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the future."

*The Honorable Joe Baca, Chairman, Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry, House Committee on Agriculture*



Members of the Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative meet with USDA Chief of Staff Dale Moore and other USDA leaders immediately following passage of the farm bill.

The CRAT issued 92 recommendations accompanied by work plans and timelines. Its recommendations ranged from “taking action to remedy past discrimination” to “ensuring the department has measurable goals for screening customers and employees fairly and equitably.” For the most part that report and, with few exceptions, its recommendations have sat on the shelf for over 10 years.

In 1999, Federal District Judge, Paul Friedman, issued a consent decree that settled a historic discrimination class action lawsuit by African Americans against the USDA. The settlement provided a two-track remedy from which a claimant could choose. Under Track A, a successful claimant would receive \$50,

000 plus loan forgiveness and offsets for tax liability. Under Track B there was no limit to the monetary relief, however, these claimants had to prove their damages through a preponderance of evidence. Basically track B claimants were required to provide the same proof that would have been required had they filed individual lawsuits. According to a recent report to Congress, 15,414 claims have been approved under track A for a total of \$971,943,164 and only 172 claims under Track B have been found eligible.

Well over 50,000 claims have been denied because of late filings. Data suggests that a relatively small number of claimants in either track are farming today. The most telling fact is that the settlement did not provide any systemic changes within the USDA nor did it hold past and current employees responsible for the discrimination accountable in any way.

In addition to the Pigford case, USDA has failed to resolve additional claims brought against it based on racial, ethnic, or gender discrimination an expeditious and just manner. Thousands of additional producers are left in uncertainty in several additional class action suits: Keepseagle (Indian producers, filed 11/24/1999), Garcia (Latino producers filed 10/13/2000), Love (Women producers filed 10/19/2000) class action suits.

In May 2008, the General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a scathing indictment of the USDA and its practices as they relate to farmers of color. The study is titled “Management of Civil Rights Efforts Continues To Be Deficient Despite Years of Attention”. It is important to note that the title indicates years of attention, not years of work.

Among other things, the GAO report found that:

*“ASCR’s difficulties in resolving discrimination complaints persist - ASCR has not achieved its goal of preventing future backlogs of complaints. ASCR does not have a plan to correct these many problems... ASCR’s strategic planning is limited and does not address key steps to achieve the office’s mission of ensuring USDA provides fair and equitable service to all customers and upholds the civil rights of its employees.”*

The office that was established to both protect and ensure that farmers of color have equitable access to the programs and services of the USDA apparently has and continues to be derelict in its duties and thus has become an accomplice to those individuals and agencies within the USDA that continue to discriminate.

The need to address the proven discrimination by the USDA against farmers of color led to the CRAT report, the Pigford lawsuit and the establishment of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Office (ASCR). Unfortunately neither has led to any structural changes within the USDA that would cause a cultural change within the department – a change that would eliminate all vestiges of discrimination.



It was in the context of these three failed opportunities that farmers of color recognized the need to be more proactive in the policy arena by demanding a seat at the table in the 2008 Farm Bill debate. Past farm bills for the most part had failed farmers of color and the USDA continued to conduct business as usual, resulting in a slow yet inexorable decline in the number of farms owned and operated by people of color.

### Food and Farm Policy Diversity Initiative

Realizing that acting alone and in isolation was counterproductive and understanding that they shared common problems and concerns; in 2006 a broad coalition of rural interests comprising African Americans, American Indians, Latinos, Asian Americans and farm workers joined forces to develop and implement strategies to influence the 2008 Farm Bill debate. They wove together the previous proposals of many of the partners, adopting the shared definition of “socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers” that defined all of the groups as those who had suffered discrimination. Many of the DI elements ultimately enacted were included in a 2006 resolution that was endorsed by virtually every major national Latino organization at the Latino Congreso sponsored by William C. Velasquez Institute and others. The Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Native American Caucus and others strongly supported the platform. The National Congress of American Indians was among the additional groups who endorsed the Diversity Initiative Platform, and more than 140 groups signed a statement of support for the policy principles of the DI.



DI team member Rudy Arredondo congratulates Rep. Joe Baca on House passage of Farm Bill.

The Diversity Initiative developed a comprehensive farm policy that accurately reflected the role, contribution and importance of farmers of color. It was formed and informed by grass roots participation at all levels. Important sections of these proposals are included in the Final Farm Bill passed by congress and enacted into law. Those sections are detailed in this report.

For the first time a farm bill has made some headway toward addressing the problems faced by farmers of color; problems that persist even after being acknowledged by the USDA. In the past, policy makers, the media and many groups that claim to represent all farmers and to a large extent past farm bills have marginalized even ignored farmers of color.

This Farm Bill of 2008 provides nearly one and one half billion dollars for small farmers and ranchers of color and minority serving institutions to implement sustainable strategies that will keep them on the farm and productive members of rural communities. The amount of money is meager when compared to the nearly three hundred billion dollar budget and the bill itself is far from perfect, yet it represents a small and long overdue step toward a more diverse and equitable agricultural system in this country.

### Farm Bill Wins on Equity

The 2008 Food, Conservation and Energy Act (H.R. 2419) has been enacted into law and contains many important wins for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and farmworkers. The new law includes many provisions that provide new opportunities for American Indian, African-American, Latino, Asian-Pacific and other small farmers and ranchers to secure equitable access to all programs of the Department Of Agriculture. The investments made by the law for new opportunities, coupled with the increased resources provided to existing programs that benefit people of color total a historic \$1.5 billion for the five year period covered by the new law.

Currently, over 35 million people in the United States live in households that face food insecurity and/or hunger. The vast majority of these families are people of color, and nearly 50 percent are children. The new law helps to alleviate this problem by increasing support for nutrition and community food programs and by providing greater food safety measures for consumers and increased market access and affordability of local, healthy, and fresh foods.



## Equitable Access to Programs

The new law includes many measures that would significantly help expand and accelerate the growth, resources and viability of socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and farm workers, and hold USDA accountable for equitable service. The provisions included in the law will also help counteract patterns of past discrimination and recognize the importance of investing in these producers.

Some of the most prominent wins for socially disadvantaged farmers include the following historic provisions:

### Land Loss and Preservation

Thousands of farmers and ranchers face imminent foreclosure following inadequate protection and outcomes of civil rights complaints, as well as individual and class action lawsuits. The 2008 Farm Bill seeks to halt the accelerations and foreclosures for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through a number of critical measures.

### Settlement of Civil Rights Claims

The new law calls upon the Secretary of Agriculture to resolve all civil rights claims and class actions brought against the department by socially disadvantaged producers in a fair and expeditious manner. These class action suits include the aforementioned Keepseagle (Indian producers, filed 11/24/1999), Garcia (Latino producers, filed 10/13/2000), and Love (Women producers, filed 10/19/2000). It also provides a new avenue for court consideration of late filed or unresolved claims in the Pigford v. Glickman Consent Decree, with funding of \$100 million and authority for additional funds for resolution of these claims by African American producers. Authority to file a claim under this section terminates 2 years after enactment of the 2008 Farm Bill.



*House and Senate committee leaders listen to House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson announce House-Senate Agreement on Farm Bill Conference report.*

### Moratorium on Foreclosures

The new law places a moratorium on loan acceleration and foreclosure proceedings if a claim of discrimination is involved. It also waives interest and offsets that are accrued during the moratorium period and requires that the USDA Inspector General issue a report on SDFR loan foreclosure proceedings within a year of the legislation's enactment.

### Credit Programs

Access to credit programs and loan servicing options to meet current needs of socially disadvantaged producers is critical. Credit is essential to building a new generation including new entry producers, and to assuring the intergenerational transference of land and farm ownership. Current data suggest that 95 percent of participants in the beginning farmer program are white males. To address this inequity and ensure the growth and viability of socially disadvantaged producers, the new law restores priority to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers when USDA sells inventory property and gives priority to socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers in credit programs. Lower interest rates, better lending terms, and higher maximum purchase price on first time land purchases are provided and FSA loans are allowed to be extended to individual Indians to purchase "highly fractionated" parcels of land according to the Indian Land Consolidation Act amendments of 2004.



Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin speaks to reporters following final passage of the 2008 Farm Bill.

## Support for Socially Disadvantaged and Beginning Farmers

Socially disadvantaged producers have had to overcome past exclusion from programs and significant gaps in outreach and information that have deterred them from fully participating in USDA programs. The need for support and technical assistance, including direct payments, to help socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers access services equitably is well documented. The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, provides \$75 million mandatory over 4 years to fund the grant program for beginning farmers and ranchers, with an additional \$30 million in annual discretionary authority. One quarter of the funds are reserved for socially disadvantaged producers.

### Value-Added Producer Grant Program

Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers participate at very low rates in the existing value added competitive grant program. Adding on-farm value to existing farm products is especially critical to these largely small-scale and diverse producers. The new law provides \$15 million in mandatory funds, to be available until expended, with 10 percent set-aside for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers, for grants to producers to add value to their products. It also authorizes further appropriations of up to \$40 million annually.

### Conservation Programs

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers participate at low rates in most conservation programs. The 2008 Farm Bill seeks to address this lack of access through a number of measures.

### Farm and Ranch Land Protection

Many socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers own or seek to own land that is in dire need of access to conservation easements but these farmers currently do not participate in state and local FFLP programs. The new law addresses this problem by providing assistance to improve access to these programs. It provides a five percent set-aside in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and beginning farmers and ranchers. It also increases payments within EQIP by providing cost share rates of up to 90 percent in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and advance payments up to 30 percent for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers.



DI Team Co-Chair Ross Racine shares Diversity Initiative Recommendations with USDA Secretary Ed Shaefer at USDA Partners Meeting, August 2008

Through the Conservation Reserve Program Transition Incentives Program, the new law provides \$25 million over 10 years to encourage owners of CRP land to sell or rent to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The Congress also expressed its intent through report language that producer associations and farmer cooperatives may act on behalf of its members in submitting applications and plans to participate in EQIP, and directs the Secretary to clarify this option in any rule or procedure written for EQIP.



## Specialty Crop Programs

The new law includes numerous provisions related to improving technical assistance, research, transportation and distribution, market news and census data for specialty crops. If provided adequate access to these new benefits, these programs have the potential to benefit the socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, who comprise at least 12 percent of specialty crop producers. Conference Report language in the specialty crop block grant to states requires each state to develop and submit to USDA a plan for reaching socially disadvantaged producers when they apply to USDA for these funds. The block grant program will receive \$224 million in mandatory funding over five years.



DI member John Zippert testifies to Congress on DI priorities.

## Outreach, Transparency, and Accountability

### Outreach

Outreach focused on socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, with real transparency and accountability, is essential to achieving equity at USDA. The Section 2501 Outreach and Technical Assistance Program remain a core partnership between USDA and community based organizations and minority serving institutions that has helped socially disadvantaged farmers remain on their land. The 2008 Farm Bill provides \$75 million over four years in mandatory funds for this important program and strengthens its ability to assist socially disadvantaged producers to participate in agriculture programs. The program is relocated to the Office of Advocacy and Outreach. The new law also strikes the requirement that tribes provide office space for USDA offices on Indian Reservations and to EIRP agents, and directs extension agents to be placed in areas “where there has been a need demonstrated.”



DI Team member Jerry Pennick speaks at USDA Partners Meeting, August 2008

The new law also establishes a coordinated function for small, beginning and socially disadvantaged producers at USDA. The Office of Advocacy and Outreach includes two branches: A Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Group, which includes the 2501 program, the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers, the Farmworker Coordinator, and the functions and duties previously assigned to the Office of Outreach and Diversity under the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and a Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group, which will include the Office of Small and Beginning Farms Coordination, a liaison to the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, and the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. This new office is responsible for providing coordination among the many office and mission areas that provide portions of the assistance that small farmers and ranchers and farmworkers require.

### Farmworker Coordinator and Disaster Emergency Program

The new law also establishes a farmworker coordinator within the Office of Outreach and Advocacy with specific functions and purposes. These include serving as a liaison to community-based organizations working with farmworkers and coordinating entities, and administering the emergency program previously authorized to ensure that farm worker needs are met during disasters and other emergencies.

### Transparency, Accountability and USDA Oversight and Compliance

The 2008 Farm Bill requires the Secretary to compile annual application and participation rate data, including numbers and percentages, for each county or parish and state in the United States, organized by race, gender,



and ethnicity. It also provides the authority necessary for agencies to collect the data necessary to respond to this section. It further requires the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to use the aforementioned data to conduct oversight and evaluation of civil right compliance. The new law further establishes a receipt for service or denial of service to be provided to producers seeking access to USDA programs.

The law requires accurate representation of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the Census of Agriculture. It mandates that the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Rural Development programs provide, upon request, a receipt to producers who request service noting the outcome of their request and any further action needed. And it establishes an advisory committee in the Office of Outreach and Advocacy to provide advice on the implementation of the Outreach and Technical Assistance Program for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, methods of maximizing participation in USDA programs, and civil rights activities within the USDA.

## **Forestry**

Forestry is important to socially disadvantaged producers and landowners. Of particular concern are the U.S. Forest Service policies related to indigenous producers and landowners. The new law seeks to address these concerns by authorizing reburial of human remains and cultural items on National Forest System land, including human remains and cultural items repatriated under NAGPRA. It prevents disclosure of information regarding reburial sites as well as other culturally sensitive information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and allows the temporary closure of Forest System land for traditional and cultural purposes with Secretarial approval. It also allows free gathering of forest products for cultural and traditional purposes and increases the availability of Forest Service programs and resources to Indian tribes; and aims to strengthen support of traditional practices in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

## **Nutrition**

Our nation's Food and Farm Policy should make adequate nutrition a funding priority and ensure the nutritional needs of all citizens are met. The expansion of Food Stamp Program eligibility and benefit levels for all who will need them is critically important. Indian Tribes should also be provided with the ability to include traditional foods in nutrition and commodity programs.

### **Access to Food and Nutrition**

#### **Food Stamps**

The 2008 Farm Bill renames the Food Stamp program the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), increases program funding by \$3.1 billion, indexes SNAP benefits to inflation, expands program eligibility for military and working families with childcare expenses and excludes certain education and retirement assets from eligibility criteria. It also allows for the purchase of bison meat from (a) Native American bison producers, and (b) producer-owned bison cooperatives, establishes a "Traditional and Locally Grown Food Fund" that allows the purchase of foods designated "traditional" or locally grown for inclusion into food packages, and supports the procurement of the foods by Native American farmers and ranchers - up to 50 percent where practicable. It further directs the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress, within 180 days of enactment, that assesses the nutritional value of the FDPIR food package, how foods are selected, and how the Secretary plans to update the packages, and if not, why.

#### **Healthy Food Choices**

Across the nation the incidence of diet-related diseases is highest among non-white populations. Additionally, the incidence of diet-related disease is concentrated



DI team member Michael Harris (foreground, speaking) discusses DI results with delegates at USDA Partners Meeting



within geographic areas where there are proportionally high populations of lower income status. Among these populations, consumption of a healthy diet, which includes fruits and vegetables are proportionally lower than average. The food retail environment – the mix of supermarkets, grocery and convenience stores in a community – is a factor that affects consumer food purchasing habits. Research has documented that often low-income and minority communities have fewer supermarkets, less availability of produce (determined by store shelf space) and higher prices for fresh foods.

Efforts in the 2008 Farm Bill to include more equitable access to fresh, affordable, and healthy foods included policy proposals to improve the market access of small volume and regional producers, investments in food distribution and retailing for healthy and locally produced foods, and increased purchases of fruit and vegetables in federal nutrition assistance programs.

### Farmers Market Promotion

The 2008 Farm Bill provides \$33 million in mandatory funding over five years, with a 10 percent set-aside for implementation projects, to promote farmers markets.

### Community Food Projects

The new law provides \$5 million mandatory funding for ten years to community-based projects that meet the food needs of low-income individuals, increase the food self-reliance of communities, and promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and agricultural needs.



DI team CO-chair Ross Racine and member Lloyd Wright, share observations during USDA Partners meeting, August 2008

### Geographic Preference Language

The new law allows local schools using program funding the flexibility to specify “local” as a bid requirement in purchasing foods for school meals.

### USDA Loan Guarantee Priority for Locally Produced Agricultural Products

This new law allows entities involved in local food distribution and marketing to receive prioritized consideration for USDA loan guarantees in the Rural Business and Industries Loan program, and sets aside 5 percent of annual funds yielding approximately \$50 million in loans.

### Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

The new law provides for the creation of a “Traditionally and locally-grown food fund” where 50 percent of Native Americans should produce the food, with traditional and locally grown to be defined by USDA.

### Equity for Minority Serving Educational Institutions

The 2008 Farm bill supports equity for minority-serving institutions including funding increases to the 1890 and 1994 Land Grant Colleges and Universities. It provides new capacity building grants to Hispanic-Serving Institutions to promote and strengthen their ability to carry out education, applied research, and related community development. And it establishes an endowment fund for Hispanic-Serving agricultural colleges and universities, and a leadership program to recruit and train Hispanics and other under-represented groups in forestry and related fields.



## Conclusion

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 was significant for what it did and did not do. The bill retained significant benefits for commodity programs that benefit larger farmers the most. Conservation programs were increased, nutrition programs expanded significantly and disaster and energy provisions were added. The specialty crop industry received new programs and funding, which also provide some benefits to improve nutrition.

With respect to socially disadvantaged producers — including American Indian, African American, Latino and Asian-American producers, the difference from previous bills was stark. In 1990, the groups were able to secure one small section of policy, establishing the 2501 Outreach and Technical Assistance Program. In 1996, little new was added; and in 2002, significant effort was expended to add a few additional sections of policy, including the creation of an Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and the institution of transparency and accountability requirements to track the involvement of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in farm programs.

As result of the 2008 Farm Bill, however, the sector of producers represented by the Diversity Initiative have a real opportunity to become more engaged in all farm programs. Farmworkers and urban communities have secured a place at the table. At long last, it will be in their interests to add their voices even more strongly to 2008 Farm Bill implementation and subsequent Farm Policy debates.

The Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative encourages all its supporters and allies to do just that. Please stay informed of the progress on implementation by checking on our work at [www.ruralco.org](http://www.ruralco.org). We also urge you to send an email to [lpicciano@ruralco.org](mailto:lpicciano@ruralco.org) to join the DI e-update list to stay informed of current action.

“One of the driving factors that guided us through the creation of the farm bill was to make sure anyone who wanted to farm in the United States could,”

*Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Ranking Member of the Committee on Agriculture for the House of Representatives.*



**The Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative**  
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## SUMMARY OF 2008 FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

The **Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative** was established to ensure organizations serving people of color in the food system had the opportunity to develop their own initiatives into a comprehensive agenda of food and agriculture policy proposals to strengthen and diversify the content of 2008 farm bill with the overall goal of securing access to the same opportunities that have benefited other producers. The involvement of people of color organizations and leaders in the farm bill policy debate is crucial not only to halt land and farm loss by eliminating the factors that cause it, but also to expand opportunities and restore access for critical populations that seek prosperity in the food system. The organizations that represent people of color have been steeped in the struggles for a better way of life for some of the most vulnerable communities in the U.S. and beyond. As such, these leaders are better positioned and qualified to contribute some of the strongest and most straightforward policy solutions for improving the sustainability and viability for everyone in the food system.

The work of the Diversity Initiative is led and carried out by a crosscutting Policy Team established in July 2006 to synthesize existing policy into recommendations to expand diversity and equity in the 2008 farm bill. Our leaders have long term and substantive relationships with policy makers, having worked for as many as three decades to bring justice and equity to food and farm policy. As a result of their previous collaboration, changes were secured in the 1987 Agriculture Credit Act, and the first Minority Farmers Rights section was developed and passed in the 1990 Farm Bill. The team has worked together and expanded its members and allies in every farm bill debate since then, including important new constituencies that have grown to serve emerging needs in food and agriculture.

The Diversity Initiative shares the following matrix summarizing the results of the 2008 Farm Bill process. We recommend to our colleagues that this summary be utilized in the course of our work to secure implementation by USDA of the provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill.

**Prepared by the Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative Policy Team** - Savi Horne, Land Loss Prevention Project, Co-Chair; Ross Racine, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Co-Chair; Jerry Pennick and John Zippert, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund; Rudy Arredondo, National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association; Michael Harris, Institute for Community Resource Development, Lloyd Wright, former USDA Director of Civil Rights, Independent Consultant, Albert Jacquez and Antonio Gonzalez, Willie C. Velasquez Institute, Daniel Cordalis, National Congress of America Indians, Chukou Thao, National Hmong American Farmers, Tirso Moreno, Farmworker Association of Florida, Mily Trevino-Saucedo, Organización en California de Lideres Campesinos, Edmund Gomez, New Mexico State University, Brett Malone, ALBA, Anim Steel, The Food Project; and Quinton Robinson, Policy Advisor and Lorette Picciano, Team Coordinator, Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural.



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

Issue/Program and DI Platform	House Bill	Senate Bill	Final Farm Bill Outcome	Language Interpretation/ Policy Goals	Total Funds (M\$)	% for SDFRs	For SDFRs (M\$)
MISCELLANEOUS TITLE		SUBTITLE B			Mandatory Funds in <b>Bold</b>	Mandatory Funds in <b>Bold</b>	
<b>FORECLOSURE MORATORIUM</b>							
<b>Moratorium on Foreclosures</b> — Seeks a moratorium on loan acceleration and foreclosure proceedings when there is a pending or new claim of discrimination against the USDA until the Secretary resolves the claim or if appealed, until the court renders a final decision. Would waive interest and offsets accrued during moratorium period and require USDA Inspector General to issue within a year of enactment a report on SDFR loan foreclosure proceedings.	No provision	Section 11051 amends Section 307 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1927) placing into law t current USDA guidance regarding a moratorium on accelerations and foreclosures when program discrimination complaints are pending or filed. Farmers who do not prevail are liable for accrued interest and offsets.	Section 14002 adopts the Senate language placing a moratorium as of enactment date on all acceleration and foreclosure proceedings for farmer program loans made under subtitle A, B, or C, where there is a pending or newly filed discrimination complaints accepted as valid. Requires the Inspector General to determine whether foreclosure proceedings for past 5 years were implemented according to applicable laws and regulations, and applies to	In addition to immediate implementation of the moratorium USDA should develop specific procedures to prevent the loss or destruction of accepted cases of discrimination and inform producers of the moratorium and on the waiver of interest and offsets by including specific notice in all related correspondence. If the agency misplaces or does not communicate the acceptance of an accepted case, the effect of the moratorium should be retroactive.			
<b>RESOLUTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS CLAIMS</b>					The fair, expeditious and complete resolution of all outstanding civil rights cases and claims is essential if the Department is to move forward to proactive and affirmative service to equitably include SDFRs in all of its programs.		
<b>Determination on Merits of Pigford Claims</b> — Provides African-American farmers who filed claims under the Pigford v. Glickman lawsuit a court determination on the merits of their cases.	Section 11312	Section 5402 routes all cases to the US District Court for the US District of Columbia, connects “Substantial evidence” definition to the one in the original consent decree and provides \$100 M in mandatory funding and authority to appropriate additional sums as necessary to settle all claims.	Section 14012 adopts the Senate language with modifications. Secretary has 120 days to provide the claimant a report and is required to retrieve data from the claimant’s county, open an avenue for those filing noncredit benefits up to a maximum of \$3000, report every six months on the status of funds and number of pending claims and to notify the committees when 75% of the funds have been depleted. Claim must be filed within 2 years of enactment.		\$100	100%	\$100



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

### Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative

Sense of the Senate Relating to Claims Bought by SDFRs – states that the Secretary should resolve all claims and class actions brought against the USDA based on racial, ethnic, or gender discrimination in an expeditious and just manner, including the Keepseagle (Indian producers, filed 11/24/1999), Garcia (Latino producers filed 10/1/3/2000), Love (Women producers filed 10/19/2000) class action suits.	No provision	Section 5403 contains the sense of Congress on the resolution of claims in an “expeditious and just” manner.	Section 14011 adopts the Senate language with a modification that all pending claims should be “expeditiously resolved.”	The Secretary should immediately send a written request to the Justice Department to secure permission to settle all outstanding claims expeditiously.
2501 OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR SDFRS	Section 11201	Section 11052/11053	Section 14004	
<b>Reauthorizes funding for the 2501 Outreach and Technical Assistance to Improve Participation of SDFRs in USDA programs</b>	Section 11201 provides mandatory funding of \$15 M per year in mandatory funds.	Section 11052 provides discretionary funding of \$50 M per year.	Section 14004 provides \$75 M in mandatory funding: • \$15 M for FY 2009 • \$20 M for each of FYs 2010-2012	The Secretary should prepare a transition plan for the program including a plan for the upcoming grant round and the need to use any funds for the current FY, to prepare for the transition and location of the program and to draft any regulations necessary for the transfer and permanent location of the program.  The Secretary should keep its partners notified of the process.
<b>Strengthens Program Eligibility Criteria</b>	Section 11201 subsection 1-2 (B)	Section 11052 also requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations on criteria for the review of proposals.	Section 14004 defines an eligible entity as one that has demonstrated an ability to carry out the requirements to provide outreach and works with, and on behalf of, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers during a 3-year period.	The Secretary should draft a new regulation/RFA that clarifies the program eligibility criteria.
<b>Reporting Requirements -</b> Requires an annual report to Congress and the Agriculture Committees.	Section 11201 (E) requires report on recipients of funds, activities, number of producers served, problems and barriers encountered.	Section 11052 (F) requires the report to detail program accomplishments and problems and gaps and services.	Section 14004 adopts the House language.	The Secretary should assure the reporting elements are included in the RFA and a process is established for reporting. The annual report should be produced in a public version and shared with the CBO Partners
<b>Authority to Renew Contracts</b>		Sec 11052 provides the Secretary the authority to renew contracts with existing grantees.	Not included.	



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

### Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative

<b>Relocation the Office of Outreach/ Coordination of the 2501 Outreach and Technical Assistance Program with the Office of Outreach</b>	Section 11208 requires the Secretary within 18 months to develop a proposal to relocate the Office of Outreach. Section 11208 also assigns to the Office of Outreach the administration of the 2501 program and the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program as well as the coordination of Outreach activities among the various agencies of the department.	Section 11052 requires the Secretary, in consultation with eligible entities, to join the 2501 Program and the Office of Outreach and find a permanent location within 18 months.	Section 14013 establishes the Office of Advocacy and Outreach to improve program access and the viability and profitability of small farms and ranches; beginning farmers and ranchers, and SDFRs. The Office contains a <i>Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Group</i> , which includes the 2501 program, the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers, the Farmworker Coordinator, and the functions and duties previously assigned to the Office of Outreach and Diversity under the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. It also contains a <i>Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group</i> , which will include the Office of Small Farms Coordination, the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, and the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.	This new entity has the potential to fill gaps and provide coordination of vision and function across USDA agencies and as such, should be a major subject of discussion at the 2008 USDA Partners meeting.	SSAAN
<b>Expanded USDA Contracting Authority</b> provides authority for additional USDA agencies to enter into contracts with community-based organizations	Section 11201 (D)	Section 11053 clarifies that the Secretary is not required to require matching funds in grants made under the subsection.	Not included.		
<b>IMPROVED PROGRAM DELIVERY ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS</b>					
<b>USDA Offices on Indian Reservations – Strikes</b> requirement enacted in 1990 that requires a tribe to provide necessary office space if it wishes to participate in the program to provide USDA staff in consolidated sub offices on reservations.	Section 11202 amends Section 2501(g) of the 1990 FACT Act by authorizing the Secretary to require USDA agencies to establish consolidated sub offices on Indian Reservations.	Section 11054 is the same as the House provision with technical differences.	Section 14001 authorizes the Secretary to require Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources and Conservation Service and any such offices and functions the Secretary choose to include, to establish a consolidated sub office at tribal headquarters on Indian Reservations, where there is a demonstrated need.	As USDA offices are realigned off reservations, the USDA should look at expanding services with funded consolidated sub offices on reservations in order to assure American Indian producers are reached.	
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (Formerly the Extension Indian Reservation Program)</b>	Not included.	Not included.	No change from current law. Language in the Statement of Managers indicates that the demand for/status of extension services on	USDA should request increased funds through the FY 2009 budget process.	



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

(see also Research Title)			Indian reservations should be assessed and included in Research, Extension, and Education budgets accordingly.		
<b>IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY/ACCOUNTABILITY/TRACKING AND COMPLIANCE</b>					
<b>Improved Data Requirements for Monitoring SDFR Participation in USDA Programs –</b> Requires the Secretary to compile annual application and participation rate data for each county and state in the United States, organized by race, gender, and ethnicity and provides authority to USDA agencies to collect the data necessary to comply.	Section II 1203 also requires that the report shall be maintained and be made readily available to the public.	Section II 056	Section I 4006 adopts the House provision and also requires the report be maintained and made readily available to the public in electronic and paper form.	The Secretary immediately such regulations as are necessary to provide authority and direction to the agencies for data collection, and should assure data is collected and released in an electronically accessible and searchable form. Proper implementation is particularly crucial as it will form the foundation for the implementation of the funds carved out in the Conservation title and elsewhere for SDFRs.	
<b>Receipt for Service –</b> Provides for the issuance of receipt to a farmer or rancher requesting assistance, including time, date and place of request, actions taken, applications made, or service denied	Section II 205 requires the department to issue a receipt for service or denial of service.	Section II 057 requires the issuance of the receipt only upon request and only for FSA and NRCS programs.	Section I 4003 requires the receipt for service upon request for FSA, NRCS, and Rural Development programs for current or prospective producers and landowners.	Provide documentation of service and lack thereof solves long term problems in service delivery and will improve local accountability and service for SDFRs.	
<b>Accurate Documentation of SDFRs by NASS and ERS –</b> Requires that the Census of Agriculture and Economic Research Service studies accurately reflect the number, location, and economic contributions of SDFRs	Section II 206 also requires the same with regard to limited resource farmers.	Section II 055	Section I 4005 adopts the Senate language.	The Secretary should issue specific regulations to specify how this section shall be implemented.	
<b>Civil Rights Oversight and Compliance –</b> Requires the Secretary, through the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights to use the reports as described in subsection (c) of 2501(A) of the FACT Act of 1990, as amended, to conduct oversight and evaluation of civil rights compliance.	No provision	Section II 064	Section I 4007 adopts the Senate language.	The Secretary should utilize this authority to increase the capacity and prominence of the ASCR in holding agencies accountable for performance and in a proactive approach to measuring and document real progress and outcomes in the participation of SDFRs in USDA programs.	
<b>Reports of Civil Rights Complaints, Resolutions</b>	No provision	Section II 065	Section I 4010 adopts the Senate language.	The report should provide a clear picture of the scope of civil rights	



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

			complaints and make the report available to the public.
<b>and Actions</b> – Requires the Secretary to issue an annual public report on program and employment civil rights complaints by agency, and the number of discrimination findings and number and type of personnel actions taken following complaint resolution.			
<b>INCLUSION OF FARMWORKERS</b>			
<b>Farmworker Coordinator</b> – Establishes within USDA the position of Farmworker Coordinator to ensure access to services and support for low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers, details responsibilities and authorizes funding for this position.	Section 11207 also specifies that the position be located within the Office of Outreach.	Section 11059	Section 14013 adopts the House language and amends it to establish this position within the Office of Advocacy and Outreach.
<b>Emergency Grants to Assist Low-Income Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers</b> – Assigns responsibility for the emergency grants to farmworkers program to the farmworker coordinator.	Section 11207 assigned responsibility for the program to the Farmworker coordinator	Section 11061 also clarifies eligibility for the program, and establishes standing fund of \$2 M in discretionary funding to provide grants to public agencies or CBOs to provide short-term emergency assistance during natural disasters.	Section 14013 assigns the responsibility for administering the program to the Farmworker Coordinator in the Office of Advocacy and Outreach. Does not include additional funding authorization above current law.
<b>USDA COORDINATION OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Office of Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers</b> – Provides authority for an office to ensure coordination across all agencies of the USDA to improve program delivery to and enumeration of small, limited resource, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers	No provision	Section 11088	Section 14013 establishes a Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group to oversee the Office of Small Farms Coordination, Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, and Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. (See above.)
<b>Minority Farmer and Rancher Advisory</b>	Section 11209	No provision	Section 14008 establishes an advisory committee in Office of Outreach and

*revised 9/24/08*



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS					
<b>Committee</b> – Establishes advisory committee on minority farmers in USDA Office of Outreach that can also review complaints.			Advocacy to provide advice on the implementation of 2501, methods of maximizing participation, and civil rights activities within the Department.		
<b>Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program</b> – Funds a beginning farmer and rancher development program authorized in the last farm bill. DI cooperated with the Sustainable Ag Coalition (SAC) on this provision.	Sec. 11204 provides \$15 M a year mandatory funding includes a 25% set aside for SDFRs	Section 7305A authorizes with discretionary funding at \$30M annually and includes a 25% set aside for SDFRs	Section 7410 provides \$18 M mandatory funding for FY 2009 and \$19 M for 2010 through 2012, with 25% reserved for SDFRs. Section 14013 places this program within the Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group within the Office of Advocacy and Outreach.	The Managers' Statement indicates that immigrant and limited resource farmers are to be included in this program.	\$75 \$30 25%
<b>Risk Management Education for Beginning Farmers and SDFRs</b> – Establishes that in administering programs, the Secretary shall place special emphasis on risk management strategies, education, and outreach targeted to beginning, immigrant, SD and transitioning (to new owners or new production systems and markets) farmers and ranchers. DI cooperated with the Sustainable Ag Coalition (SAC) on this provision.	Section 11007	Section 1922 requires the Secretary to place special emphasis in utilizing funds available to address the needs of these farmers in underserved states.	Section 12026 adopts the Senate language.	In the FY 2010 Budget submission of the President to the Congress, the President should create a separate budget line item for ensure that the FY 2006 and FY 2007 funding level of the program is increased. Also the Under Secretary for REEO should include in its annual Road Map plan to Congress emphasis on funding risk management opportunities to this group of producers.	\$18.75 \$ 7.5 \$ 7.5
<b>Funding for Risk Management Education</b>	Section 11003 reduces current \$50M in mandatory spending for a variety of risk management programs by \$20M, does not specify which programs would be cut.	Section 1919 reduces mandatory spending by \$20M per year, with \$7.5M from new insurance product research and development and \$12.5M from contracting and partnerships, and permits the Corporation to use up to \$5 M of otherwise unused funds to strengthen crop insurance compliance oversight activities, including information technology and data mining.	Section 12024 adopts the Senate provision.	The Secretary should immediately restore full funding the Risk Management Community Outreach Partnership Program. See above	



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

COMMODITY TITLE	No provision	Section 11066	Section 14204	SSAAN	100%
<b>Grants to Improve Agricultural Labor Force –</b> Directs Secretary to make grants to assist agricultural employers and farmworkers with services including job training, short-term housing, ESL training, and health and safety instruction. (D) supported the efforts of the Farmworker Justice Fund on this provision).					
<b>Adjustments to Base Acres for Direct, Counter-cyclical or Average Crop Revenue Election Commodity Payments and Peanut Payments</b> – Both bills address adjustments to and limitations on payments according to the scale of base acres. The D Team supported language allow adjustment of base for SDFRs and other measures to distribute farm commodity program benefits more equitably to SDFRs who have long been unfairly excluded.	The House bill does not provide for updating of base acres, except to adjust base acres at the end of a conservation reserve contract. Peanut base acres are now included as a covered commodity.	The Senate allows adjustment of base acres for pulse crops, canola, or newly designated oilseed acres, references base acres for peanuts and requires the Secretary to reduce base acres for land no longer used for farming, including land developed for industrial or commercial use or subdivided for multiple residential units.	Sections 1101 and 1302 provide for adjustment of base when a conservation reserve contract terminates, when the producer has eligible oilseed or pulse acreage (but not canola); provides for peanut base acres in determination of excess acres and provides for reductions of base acres for land subdivided for multiple residential units and adopts the Senate Structure for the peanut program.	The conference report does not address the continuing inequities in the distribution of base or concrete measures to better assure that SDFRs have real and substantive access to programs from which they have long been excluded except for slight changes clearly restricting eligibility for payments to non-farmers. The Secretary should take measures to document the proportions of crop based allocated to SDFRs, any changes in allocation resulting from adjustment of base acres, as well as their participation all direct, counter-cyclical ACRE and Peanut payments.	
<b>Adjustments to Base Acres for Direct, Counter-cyclical or Average Crop Revenue Election Commodity Payments and Peanut Payments</b> – Both bills address adjustments to and limitations on payments according to the scale of base acres.			Sections 1101 and 1302 (peanuts) prohibit direct, counter-cyclical and average crop revenue election payments on farms of 10 acres or less, unless the farm is owned by a socially disadvantaged or limited resource farmer or rancher. Authority is provided for data collection and evaluation.	The conference report directs the Secretary to collect and publish data and survey information on farm profiles, land utilization and crop production and to evaluate the impact of the suspension of payments for small base acres on the price and supply of fruit and vegetables. The Diversity Initiative underscores the importance of including information and evaluation on socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers and ranchers in both the data collection and publication, including information	



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

				on acreage base by race, gender and ethnicity, and the evaluation of impact under this section.	
<b>Representation on Farm Service Agency County Committees – Addresses producer representation when county or area committees are consolidated,</b>	No Provision	Sec. 1715 requires that combined committees be elected by and fairly representative of producers who cooperate with or participate in programs administered by that county or area committee and that and requires that minority representation of SDFRs be maintained.	Sec. 1616 adopts the Senate provision, adding requirement that the Secretary develop producers for the purpose of maintaining representation of SDFRs on combined or consolidated committees.	County Committees have been widely viewed as a serious barrier to the participation of SDFRs in farm programs. Appointed minority members lack a vote and the power to make a real difference. In implementing this section, the Secretary should develop clear regulations with public review to assure SDFRs have the opportunity to participate fairly in county committee elections. Such procedures will remain inadequate without the commitment of substantive resources to organizations representing these producers to conduct outreach to promote an understanding of the role of the committees and the processes and procedures for election. Procedures should also require data to be collected and released on the number and participation of SDFRs in the election process, and a process of evaluation of results should be included.	
<b>CONSERVATION TITLE - D/ cooperated with the Sustainable Ag Coalition (SAC) on italicized items.</b>					
<b>Improved Access to Conservation Programs for SDFRs and BFRs</b>	Section 2105 establishes in EQIP a 5% set aside for both SDFRs and BFRs. Establishes global cost share rate across all conservation programs of 90% for SDFRs.	Section 2403 sets aside 10% of all conservation funds available in each FY to be used to assist beginning and SDFRs. To be eligible, however, producers must derive or expect to derive at least \$15,000 in gross sales from agriculture.	Section 2704 provides set asides in CSP and EQIP for both SDFRs and BFRs (5% for each group).	The Secretary should immediately provide the authority to NRCS for the data collection necessary to implement this goal.	<b>EQIP</b> <b>\$7,325</b> <b>CSP</b> <b>\$12,000</b> <b>(over 10 years)</b>
<b>EQIP Eligibility Requirement</b>	No restriction	Section 2353 adds an eligibility requirement that requirement the farmer or rancher derives or expects to derive \$15,000 in gross	Removal of this restriction emphasizes that funds should go to individuals actively engaging in farming and ranching operations, but recognizes the need for off-farm employment.	Removal of this restriction represents a win; many SDFRs would have been denied EQIP benefits with a \$15,000 income threshold.	



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

		<i>sales from farming, ranching or forestry.</i>			
<b>Recognition of Indian Tribes as Partners for Water Enhancement Program/Wetlands Reserve Program</b>	Section 2106	Section 2321 stipulates a 30-year time period for contracts.	Section 2202 makes tribes eligible for a 30-year contract (to be valued equivalent to a 30-year easement) and also restoration cost-share agreements.		
<b>Simplification of Conservation Program Application Processes -</b> Minimizes complexity and redundancy in application process to encourage the participation of first time applicants	Section 2405	Section 2405	Section 2708 authorizes BFRs, SDFRs, LRFRs, and Indian tribes to receive such incentives.		
<b>EQIP Cost Share and Advance Payment – Increase cost share for rate for SDFRs and BFR and provide for an advance payment.</b>	Section 2105	Section 2325 provides a prevailing rate cost share 15% above state levels for SDFRs and BFRs, up to 90%. Allows advance payments up to 30% for BFRs and SDFRs.	Section 2503 allows up to 30% advance payments and up to a 90% cost share.	While the benefits of the EQIP program are of unique importance to SDFRs, their participation as been severely hampered both by prohibitive cost share requirements and the requirement that funds be invested upfront for the installation of practiced covered under the program for later reimbursement.	
				The new requirements will make much expanded participation in the EQIP program possible by allowing up to 30% of costs to be provided upfront, and by increasing the overall percentage paid by the Department. These two changes in authority should allow the Department to greatly expand the benefits of this program to SDFRs. The Secretary should be sure to document these changes by immediately applying the 10708 transparency and accountability requirements to allow FY 2008 to serve as a baseline year for participation.	
<b>Eligibility of Producer Organizations for EQIP –</b> Provides for the Eligibility of Producer Organizations such as Acequia Societies and		Section 2356 provided authority for a producer organization to act on behalf of its members in submitting applications or	Section 2356 provided authority for a producer organization to act on behalf of its members in submitting applications or	The managers have directed the Senate language and provided a directive in the conference report that the managers intend for the Secretary to allow producer associations and farmer cooperatives may participate in any rule or	

*revised 9/24/08*



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

<b>CREDIT TITLE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>GOAL</b>
Cooperatives to facilitate EQIP participation by their members.	otherwise acting to facilitate program participation.	farmer cooperatives to act on behalf of their members in submitting applications to participate in EQIP.	procedures related to EQIP. The DI, having worked closely on this language and its intent with Sen. Bingaman and others, call on the Secretary to assure the term "producer associations" be construed to include acequia associations.
<b>Eligibility of Forestry Plans for EQIP</b> – Provides eligibility for forestry plans under EQIP.	The House bill adds a provision to allow a forest management or stewardship plan to serve as an EQIP plan of operation and considers a permit required under a regulatory program to serve as a plan.	The Senate amendment includes a similar provision.	Section 1240D adopts the House language allowing a forest management or stewardship plan or permits to serve as an EQIP plan of operation.
<b>Preservation of Socially Disadvantaged Owned Land in Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program</b> – The Diversity Initiative sought to include preservation of socially disadvantaged owned land as a purpose and criterion of the program.	House bill does not include preservation of SDRR land ownership as a specific allowed criterion.	Senate amendment does not include preservation of SDRR land ownership as a specific FRPP criterion. Sec. 2403 included an across the board 10% set-aside for SDFR/BFR in all conservation programs.	No Socially Disadvantaged criterion was included in the FRPP and the 10% set aside for SDFR/BFR was not applied to FRPP.  The Secretary should use discretionary authority to assure socially disadvantaged landowners are assured access to this program.
<b>Determination on Merits of Pigford Claims</b> – Provides farmers who filed requests under the Pigford v. Glickman lawsuit a court determination on the merits of their cases	Section 11312 provides a maximum of \$100 M in mandatory funding to settle claims and prohibits the use of the Judgment Fund for this purpose.	Section 5402 routes all cases to the US District Court for the District of Columbia and provides \$100 M in mandatory funding and authorizes the appropriation of such additional sums as are necessary to settle all claims.	Since the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, Pigford claimants have determined that the original \$100,000.00 will cover less than 15% of eligible claimants. The Secretary shall inform Congress in its FY 2010 budget submission the need for additional funds to pay valid claims.
<b>Sense of the Senate Resolution Relating to Claims Bought by SDFRs</b> – states that the Secretary should resolve all claims and class actions	No provision	Section 5403	(See above in Misc. title)



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

brought against the USDA by SDFFs based on racial, ethnic, or gender discrimination in an expeditious and just manner				
<b>Conservation Loan Guarantee Program</b> - Retains and strengthens conservation loan authorization and adds priority for SDFFs and BFRs	Section 5001	Section 5003 adds a provision to give priority standing to EQIP-eligible producers who cannot be funded.	Section 5002 adopts the House language, with new conservation loan authority, includes direct and guaranteed loans, and the BFR/SDFR priority	NRCS should coordinate with CBOs in the implementation of this program.
<b>Modifications to Down Payment Loan Program</b> - Includes SDFFs as eligible entities, increases the maximum allowable portion of farm sales price from \$250,000 to \$500,000, reduces borrower interest rate and down payment requirements, sets the FSA portion of the loan at 45%, and changes the term of loan from 15 to 20 years.	Section 5003 also fixes the interest rate at 4% below the regular direct farm ownership loan interest rates or 1%, whichever is greater.	Section 5005 also fixes the interest rate at 4% below the regular direct farm ownership loan interest rates or 2%, whichever is greater.	Section 5004 adopts the House provision, adjusts the minimum interest rate to 4 percent below the regular direct farm ownership interest rate or 1.5 percent, whichever is greater.	Coordinate with the Office of Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.
<b>Beginning Farm and Rancher Contract Land Sales</b> - Provides loan guarantees to sellers who self-finance the sale of land to beginning farmers and ranchers, 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% guarantee, and applies to the program nationwide.	Section 5004 also makes SDFFs eligible for the program.	Section 5006 does not include SDFFs.	Section 5005 adopts the House language and amends that the asset guarantee option is included provided the seller obtains the services of a loan-servicing agent.	Coordinate with the Office of Advocacy and Outreach. The Secretary should issue a directive informing USDA employees to take all efforts to prevent lands from being sold to minority farmers that include fraudulent or hidden liens or encumbrances. In each transaction, the minority producer shall be given a copy of the title report 20 days before settlement and the agency shall comply with Federal Appraisal laws and regulations.
<b>Term Limits and Graduation</b> - Eliminates term limits on direct loans, provides an enhanced graduation process	Section 5012 adopts enhanced graduation process, but continues term limits.	Section 5103 adopts an enhanced graduation process, permanently eliminates guaranteed loan limits.	Section 5103 adopts the Senate provision, accepts the graduation process, continues term limits on direct loans, and extends the waiver on term limits through 2010 for guaranteed loans.	Section 5103 adopts the Senate provision, accepts the graduation process, continues term limits on direct loans, and extends the waiver on term limits through 2010 for guaranteed loans.
<b>Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts</b> - Authorizes a BFR IDA pilot program in at least 15 states with \$5 M in annual mandatory funding.	Not included.	Section 5201 authorizes the program for up to \$10 M in annual funding.	Section 5301 adopts the Senate language, increases the non-federal match to 50%, and limits the maximum grant amount to \$250,000 per project.	The implementation of this program shall be coordinated with the Office of Small and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.
			\$25 with no more than 10% for administ	100% <b>\$25</b>



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

<b>Loan Fund Set-Aside for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers</b> - Sets aside 75% of direct ownership loans for BFRs. Of those funds, 66% are reserved for the down payment loan program and joint financing arrangements.	Section 5022	Section 5204	Section 5302	The implementation of this program shall be coordinated with the Office of Small and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.		
<b>Direct Lending Authorization Levels</b> – Increases authority for direct operating loans from \$565M to \$850M and for direct ownership loans from \$205M to \$350M.	No provision	Section 5204	Section 5303 adopts the Senate language.			
<b>Socially Disadvantaged Producer Inventory Sales Preferences</b> - Restores priority to SDFRs in the first 135 days the Secretary is able to sell or lease inventory property	Section 5021	Section 5202 provides socially disadvantaged farmers with equal priority to beginning farmers and ranchers. If one or more eligible farmers offer to purchase the same property in the first 135 days, the buyer is to be chosen randomly.	Section 5302 adopts the Senate provision.	The implementation of this program shall be coordinated with the Office of Small and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.		
<b>Loans to Purchasers of Highly Fractioned Lands</b> – Gives the Secretary discretionary authority to make and insure loans to individual Native American Indian farmers or ranchers to keep tribal lands in agricultural production	Section 5005	Section 5401	Section 5501 adopts the Senate provision.	In the Secretary FY 2010 budget submission to the Congress, the Secretary should recommend and set aside a contingency fund to carryout this program. The implementation of this program should be coordinated with the Office of Advocacy and Outreach		
<b>Conservation Reserve Program Transition Incentives</b> - Helps facilitate the transition of land under CRP contract to BFRs and SDFRs DJ cooperated with the Sustainable Ag Coalition (SAC) on this provision.	Section 2101 also allows the BFR or SDFR to make conservation and land improvements and begin organic certification process one year before termination of a CRP contract	No provision.	Section 2111 adopts the House language, final budget score is \$16m over 5 years and \$25m over 10 yrs.	The implementation of this program shall be coordinated with the Office of Small and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.		
<b>Extension of the Right of</b>	Section 5024	No provision.	Section 5305 adopts the House	The implementation of this		

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## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

### Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative

FORESTRY TITLE	First Refusal – Extends eligibility to members of the immediate family members of borrow-owners who are SDFRs	provision.	program shall be coordinated with the Office of Small and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.
<b>Collaboration between Indian Tribes and Forest Service</b> – Includes tribes as direct participants and allowable recipients of grants in the Forest Legacy Program	No provision	Section 8111 states that applications submitted by Indian tribes do not have to pass through the Senate Coordinating Committee.	No provision.
<b>Forestry and Resource Management Assistance for Indian Tribes</b> – Authorizes the Secretary to provide financial, technical, educational, and related assistance to Indian tribes for consultation and with the Forest Service	No provision	Section 8112	No provision.
<b>Cultural and Heritage Cooperation Authority For Indian Tribes</b> – Allows the Secretary to implement procedures to ensure cultural and heritage cooperation authority for Indian tribes	No provision	Sections 8121-8127 authorize the reburial of human remains and cultural items on National Forest System land; prevents unauthorized disclosure of information regarding burial sites; authorizes the Secretary to allow access to National Forest System land by Indians for traditional and cultural purposes; and to protect the confidentiality of culturally sensitive information	Section 8101-8107 adopts Senate Language.
<b>Forestry Career Opportunities for SDFRs</b> – Establishes a competitive grant program for Hispanic-serving institutions to establish an undergraduate scholarship program for Hispanics and other underrepresented groups pursuing careers in forestry and related fields.	Section 8201	No provision	See above.  SSAAN 100%



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

RESEARCH TITLE	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION	FUNDING	NOTES
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (formally the Extension Indian Reservation Program)</b>	No provision.	No provision.	No change in current law.	The FRTEP program is authorized under the Smith-Lever Act which is now under the Under Secretary for Research, Education, Extension and Economics. REEO should set aside research and extension dollars for this program and include this program in the REEO Road Map plan to the Congress on an annual basis.
<b>Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems</b>	Section 7106 merges IAFS with the National Research Initiative, authorizes \$500 M to be appropriated until expended,	Section 7201 adds a priority for beginning farmers and ranchers to the purposes of IAFS and provides \$45 M in mandatory funding.	Section 7406 adopts the House language, renames the program Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFR), retains the Priority for BFRs, and authorizes \$700 M from FY 2008-2012, of which not less than 30 percent is to be made available for integrated research.	The implementation of this program shall be coordinated with the Office of Small and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.
<b>Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at Tuskegee and 1890 Land-Grant Colleges –</b> Reauthorizes appropriations through 2012	Section 7218	Section 7019	Section 7123 authorizes \$25 M per FY 2008-2012.	The Secretary through the Undersecretary for Research, Education, Extension and Economics shall include a budget Road Map to the Congress that lays out a plan for national agriculture research and extension. The plan should include programs and funding for the 1890s, 1994s, Hispanic Serving Institution, and small 1862s.
<b>Grants to 1890 Institutions to Expand Extension Capacity</b> – Authorizes grants to expand extension capacity that would affect teaching and research, increases funding from 15 to 20 percent of total funds.	Sections 7605 and 7215	Sections 7005 and 7017	Section 7107 and 7121	See above.
<b>Matching Funds Requirement for 1890 Research and Extension Activities</b> – Requires states to provide matching funds for agricultural research, extension, and education activities, increases research funding from 25 to 30	Sections 7220 and 7216	Sections 7022 and 7018	Sections 7127 and 7122	This provision was eliminated in the 2008 Farm Bill.



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

percent of total funds						
<b>Competitive Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions –</b> Authorizes appropriations to make competitive grants to Hispanic-serving institutions to promote and strengthen their ability to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs.	Section 7221 reauthorizes appropriations at the existing level.	Section 7023 reauthorizes the existing provision and increases funding from \$20 to \$40 M.	Section 7128 removes the ability of institutions to receive grants with a competitive grant process, allows single institutions to receive grants, and maintains the Senate's increased authorized funding levels.	The Secretary through the Undersecretary for Research Education, Extension and Economics shall include a budget Road Map to the Congress that lays out a plan for national agriculture research and extension. The language requires the Secretary to give priority to Hispanic serving institutions. The plan should include programs and funding for the Hispanic Serving Institution.	\$200	100%
<b>Endowment Fund for Hispanic-Serving Institutions –</b> Authorizes the establishment of an endowment fund to provide funds to Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities at a rate of \$80,000 times the number of Hispanic-serving institutions for each FY.	Section 7222	Section 7023	Section 7129	See above.	SSAAN	100%
<b>International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education –</b> Expands eligibility for this USDA program to Hispanic-serving colleges and universities, as well as providing priority for institutions that have existing agreements and establishing a fellowship for students to study at foreign agricultural colleges and universities	Section 7224	Section 7026	Section 7131	The Secretary through the Undersecretary for Research Education, Extension and Economics shall include a budget Road Map to the Congress that lays out a plan for national agriculture research and extension. The plan should include programs and funding for the 1890's, 1990's, Hispanic Serving Institution, and small 1862s.	SSAAN	100%
<b>Equity for the University of the District of Columbia –</b> Authorizes UDC to participate in grants and fellowships for agricultural sciences education.	Section 7205	Section 7004	Section 7106	See above.		
<b>Equity for the University of the District of Columbia –</b> Authorizes UDC to receive formula funds for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.	Section 7512	Section 7313	Section 7417	The Secretary through the Undersecretary for Research Education, Extension and Economics shall include a budget Road Map to the Congress that lays out a plan for national agriculture research and		



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

### Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative

<b>Grants to Upgrade USDA Facilities</b>	Section 7217	Section 7020	Section 7124	See above.	\$3.75
<b>Equity for 1994 Land Grant Institutions –</b> <small>Reauthorizes appropriations for the endowment of 1994 land grant colleges, for capital improvements, and for research grants to conduct agricultural research that addresses high priority concerns of tribal, regional, or national significance.</small>	Section 7502	Section 7302 also adds Ilisagvik College to the list of 1994 institutions.	Section 7402 adds Ilisagvik College, and also states that if any 1994 institution declines funds or fails to receive accreditation, the funds will be redistributed among other 1994 institutions.	The Secretary through the Undersecretary for Research Education, Extension and Economics shall include a budget Road Map to the Congress that lays out a plan for national agriculture research and extension. The plan should include programs and funding for the 1890's, 1994s, Hispanic Serving Institution, and small 1862s.	SSAAN 100%
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT TITLE</b>					
<b>Rural Cooperative Development Grants –</b> <small>Provides the Secretary the authority to make grants to nonprofit institutions for establishing and operating centers for rural cooperative development, including multi-year grants for centers with a proven track record of success. Stipulates that in years when more than \$7.5 M is appropriated, 20% of funds must go toward serving SDFRs.</small>	Section 6009	Section 6015	Section 6013 authorizes \$50 M for each of FYs 2008-2012.	The Agency shall convene an annual grant writing and program development meeting with CBO to ensure that small farm groups are prepared to take advantage of this program.	\$250 Variable
<b>Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas –</b> <small>Creates a permanent authorization for a national technology transfer program to assist agricultural producers that are seeking information to help them reduce input costs, conserve energy.</small>	Section 6011	Section 6018	Section 6016 authorizes appropriations of \$5 M for each of FYs 2008-2012.		\$25



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

### Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative

<p>diversify their production, and expand their markets through sustainable farming practices.</p>							
<p><b>Value-Added Market Development Grant Program</b></p> <p>Provides \$30 M per year in mandatory funding and sets aside 10% of program funds for SDFRs and BFRs</p>	<p>Section 6027</p> <p>Section 6401 Authorizes discretionary funding and specifies that the Secretary shall give priority to BFRs, SDFRs, operators of small- and medium-sized farms and ranchers that are not larger than family farms, and new ventures that do not have well-established markets or product development staffs or budgets, provides a simplified application process for projects requesting less than \$50,000, limits funding for feasibility studies to \$140,000 and working capital to \$300,000, provides priority for technical assistance to underserved areas.</p>	<p>Section 6202 adopts the Senate language, sets aside 10% of funding for SDFRs and BFRs, as well as 10% for support of mid-tier value chains. It provides \$15 M in mandatory money, to remain until expended with an additional authorization for appropriations of \$40M/yr.</p>	<p>The Agency shall convene an annual grant writing and program development meeting with CBO to ensure that small farm groups are prepared to take advantage of this program.</p>	<p><b>\$15</b></p> <p>\$200</p>	<p>10%</p>	<p><b>\$1.5</b></p> <p>\$20</p>	
<p><b>RUS Loans to Substantially Underserved Trust Areas</b></p> <p>Improves utility service on trust areas.</p>	No provision	<p>Section 6112</p> <p>Creates an initiative to identify and improve the availability and quality of utility services in communities in substantially underserved trust areas.</p>	<p>Section 6105 creates a discretionary initiative to improve services and programs in "substantially underserved trust areas" by making RUS loans available with interest rates as low as 2 percent; under the program non-duplication restrictions and matching funds requirements may be waived by the Secretary; and, the Secretary may give the highest funding priority to designated projects in SUTAs.</p>				
<p><b>SPECIALTY CROPS</b></p>							
<p><b>Specialty Crops Research Initiative</b> – Authorizes the Agricultural Research Service and extramural competitive grants to conduct research and extension on plant breeding, genetics, and genomics, invasive species, mechanization, and food safety.</p>	<p>Section 7411 authorizes to be appropriated \$100 M annually and provides \$215 M in mandatory funds for FY 2008, to remain available until</p>	<p>Section 7211 provides \$16 M in mandatory funding for each of FYs 2008-2012 and includes language on the optimization of organic specialty crop production and food safety.</p>	<p>Section 7311 specifies that 10% of funding will be used for each area of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research in plant breeding, genetics, and genomics</li> <li>• Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases,</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$230</b></p> <p>\$500</p>			

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## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

expended.	<p>including threats to specialty crop pollinators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term</li> <li>New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening</li> <li>Methods to prevent, monitor, detect, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops.</li> </ul> <p>It provides \$230 M in mandatory funding and authority for an additional \$500 M in funding over five years.</p>	<p>Section 3203 provides mandatory funding for technical assistance in the amounts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$4 M for FY 2008</li> <li>\$7 M for FY 2009</li> <li>\$8 M for FY 2010</li> <li>\$9 M for FY 2011 and</li> <li>\$9 M for FY 2012</li> </ul>	<p>Section 3203 provides mandatory funding for technical assistance in the amounts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$4 M for FY 2008</li> <li>\$7 M for FY 2009</li> <li>\$8 M for FY 2010</li> <li>\$9 M for FY 2011 and</li> <li>\$9 M for FY 2012</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$37</b></p>

revised 9/24/08



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

### Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative

		the Secretary to relocate to other states amounts not obligated or expended.		\$991
<b>Minimum Purchases of Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Through Section 32 –</b> <i>Stipulates that the Secretary shall purchase fruits, vegetables, and nuts to provide nutritious foods for use in domestic nutrition assistance programs. The Secretary may consider purchasing value-added products containing fruits, vegetables, or nuts while taking into consideration demand and producer interests.</i>	Section 10103 Authorizes the Secretary to make purchases using Section 32 funds as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$190 M FY 2008</li><li>• \$193 M FY 2009</li><li>• \$199 M FY 2010</li><li>• \$203 M FY 2011</li><li>• \$206 M in each FY thereafter</li></ul>	Section 4907 Authorizes the Secretary to make purchases using the funds made available in the following amounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$390 M FY 2008</li><li>• \$393 M FY 2009</li><li>• \$399 M FY 2010</li><li>• \$403 M FY 2011</li><li>• \$406 M FY 2012 and each FY thereafter</li></ul>	Section 4404 authorizes the Secretary to make purchases using funds as follows, using not less than \$50 M in each FY to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for the National School Lunch Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$190 M for FY 2008</li><li>• \$193 M for FY 2009</li><li>• \$199 M for FY 2010</li><li>• \$203 M for FY 2011</li><li>• \$206 M for FY 2012</li></ul>	
<b>Inclusion of Specialty Crops in the Census of Agriculture</b> <i>- Includes specialty crops in the Census of Agriculture</i>	Section 1017	Section 1814 requires the Secretary conduct a census of specialty crops, beginning no later than September 30, 2008 and every 5 years thereafter. This may be accomplished by including specialty crops in the Census of Agriculture.	Section 10103 includes specialty crops in the general Census of Agriculture.	
<b>National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program</b> – Defrays costs of producers and handlers seeking organic certification	Section 10301 Increases the cost share program to \$22 M for FY 2008, increases the maximum amount to \$750 per farm.	Section 1823 Authorizes \$22 M to remain available until expended and requires the Secretary to keep records of requests and disbursements from the program and report annually to Congress the number of producers and handlers served.	Section 10301 deletes the federal share requirement and requires the record keeping as mandated by the Senate language, as well as providing \$22 M in mandatory funding to remain until expended.	\$22 The Secretary shall ensure coordination with the office of Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.
<b>Grant Program to Improve Movement of Specialty Crops</b> – Authorizes discretionary funding for grants to improve cost-effective movement of specialty crops to markets; requires grantees provide at least 100% match of non-federal funds	Section 10401	Section 1842	Section 10403 allows national, state, and regional organizations of producers, shippers and carriers to be eligible for these monies.	SSAAN The Secretary shall ensure coordination with the office of Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.
<b>Specialty Crops Market News Activities</b> – Authorizes	Section 10403	Section 1811	Section 10107 authorizes \$9 M to be appropriated in FYs 2008-2012.	The Secretary shall ensure coordination with the office of
				\$45

revised 9/24/08



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

				Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.	
\$9 M in discretionary funding for each of FYs 2008 through 2012 to support market news activities regarding specialty crops.	<b>Farmers Market Promotion Program</b> – Provides competitive grants to improve and expand farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, and other direct marketing opportunities	Section 10404 Allocates \$5 M in mandatory funding for each of FYs 2008 through 2010 and \$10 M for FY 2011 and \$10 M for FY 2012. Requires that no less than 10% of funds in each FY be used to support the use of electronic benefits transfers at farmers markets.	Section 1812 Allocates \$5 M in mandatory funding in each of FYs 2008 through 2011 and \$10 M for FY 2012.	Section 10106 provides mandatory funding of \$3 M for FY 2008, \$5 M for FYs 2009-10, and \$10 M for FYs 2011-2012. It further specifies that 10% of all funding should be used to support the use of electronic benefits transfer at farmers markets.	Language in the Manager's Report asks for this funding to examine and help ameliorate the uneven distribution of farmers markets. The Secretary shall ensure coordination with the Office of Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.
	<b>Geographical Preference/Local Procurement</b> – Clarifies that the Secretary shall encourage institutions receiving funds under the National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act to purchase locally produced foods to the maximum extent possible and to use geographic preference for the procurement of locally produced foods.	Section 4304	Section 4902	Section 4302 specifies that geographic preference will be used for producing unprocessed, locally grown and raised products.	As is indicated in the Report of the Managers, unprocessed is meant to be interpreted logically; some handling may occur to present a useable product to schools, but significant value must not be added for a product to be eligible.
	<b>NUTRITION TITLE</b>				
<b>Urban Agriculture</b>	Authorizes grant program with discretionary funding	Not included.	Not included.		
<b>Community Food Projects</b>	Section 4020 authorized appropriations up to \$30 M.	Section 4801 provided \$10 M annually in mandatory funding.	Section 4402 provides \$5 M in mandatory funding annually to community-based projects that meet the food needs of low-income individuals, increase the food self-reliance of communities, and promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and agricultural needs.	The Secretary shall ensure coordination with the Office of Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. Where appropriate, the Secretary shall ensure that this program is carried out in a culturally appropriate manner.	\$25



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

<b>Healthy Food Enterprise Development Program</b>		Section 4402 establishes a Center within REEO and CSREES to provide outreach, technical assistance, and feasibility study grants to support the development of enterprises which distribute and market healthy and locally produced foods to underserved urban, rural, and tribal communities, funded at \$3 M mandatory over 3 years and authorized to receive \$2 M in 2012.	The Secretary shall ensure coordination with the office of Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. Where appropriate, the Secretary shall ensure that this program is carried out in a culturally appropriate manner.	\$3 \$2
<b>FDPIR – Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation</b>	Section 4004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explicitly confirms tribes as eligible to manage food distribution program</li> <li>Creates traditional and local foods fund to purchase such foods for inclusion into food package.</li> <li>Mandates a review of the nutritional value of the FDPIR food package</li> <li>Allows the purchase of bison meat for food package.</li> </ul>	Section 4501 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explicitly confirms tribes as eligible to manage food distribution program</li> <li>Creates traditional and local foods fund to purchase such foods for inclusion into food package.</li> <li>Mandates a review of the nutritional value of the FDPIR food package</li> <li>Allows the purchase of bison meat for food package.</li> </ul>	Section 4211 adopts the Senate language and indicates that where practicable, 50% of covered foods should be produced by Native Americans and also specifies that the Secretary should conduct a survey to determine which foods are most desired.	
<b>ENERGY TITLE</b>	<b>Loan Guarantees for Biorefineries and Biofuel Production Plants</b> – provides funding for pilot projects, facility conversions, and feasibility studies related to biomass conversion	Section 9004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides mandatory funding of \$800 M over five years; varying amounts annually</li> </ul>	Section 9007 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides preference for local ownership</li> <li>Emphasizes resource conservation and agriculture market diversification as goals of program</li> <li>Provides mandatory funding of \$300 M, until expended</li> </ul>	\$320 \$600



## SUMMARY OF FARM BILL POLICY OUTCOMES AND IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

<p><b>Rural Energy for America</b> – Establishes a program to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy development for agricultural producers and small businesses through grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance and financial assistance for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems.</p>	<p>Section 9005 reauthorizes the program and provides \$230M in mandatory funding over 5 years, includes a carve-out for grants of \$50,000 or less, allows for feasibility studies.</p>	<p>Section 9001 reauthorizes the program and provides \$230M in mandatory funding over 5 years, adds “merit” criteria for grants with environmental and public health benefits as well as energy benefits.</p>	<p>Section 9007 provides \$255M in mandatory funding plus an additional \$100M in authorization for discretionary funding, with up to 4% of funding each FY available for audits, technologies, and resources. Not less than 20% of grant funds are to provide grants of \$20,000 or less.</p>	<p><b>\$255</b> \$100</p>	<p>The Secretary shall ensure coordination with the office of Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. Also, the Secretary shall consult with the Mayors of small rural cities and townships in the implementation of this program.</p>
<p><b>Biodiesel Fuel Education Program</b> – Provides competitive grants to assist farmers, ranchers, and small rural businesses to increase energy efficiency and use renewable energy and resources.</p>	<p>Section 9017           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides \$2M for each of FYs 2008-2012</li> </ul> </p>	<p>Section 9003           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides \$2M for each of FYs 2008-2012</li> </ul> </p>	<p>Section 9006 removes oil refiners, auto companies, and fleet owners as targeted entities and provides \$1M for each of FYs 2008-2012.</p>	<p><b>\$5</b></p>	<p>The Secretary shall ensure coordination with the office of Advocacy and Outreach</p>
<p><b>Biomass Energy Reserve</b> – establishes a biomass energy reserve to encourage production of energy crops in a sustainable manner, and provides financial and technical assistance for operators of eligible cropland.</p>	<p>Section 9018           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preference for projects with high participation by beginning or SDFRs.</li> <li>• Requires information sharing via a best practices database</li> <li>• Provides mandatory funding in such sums as are necessary</li> </ul> </p>	<p>Section 9004           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides preference for projects with high participation by beginning or SDFRs.</li> <li>• Requires participants to keep records of production potential and best practices to be made public</li> <li>• Provides \$130 M, until expended, for biomass crop transition experience, and \$10 M, for each of FYs 2009 through 2011 for collection, harvest, storage, and transport of renewable biomass.</li> </ul> </p>	<p>Section 9011 establishes the “Biomass Crop Assistance Program” and retains the same functions and preference for BFRs and SDFRs as the Senate version. It is authorized with mandatory funding such sums as are necessary for each of FYs 2008-2012 for projects, sponsored by a group of agricultural producers or a biomass conversion facility, that pay producers to establish perennial or annual crops (not including commodity program, noxious, or invasive crops) or trees destined for a biomass conversion facility. Eligible land excludes “native sod” and land enrolled in WRP, CRP, and GRP. Includes matching funds for collection, harvest, storage, and transport of renewable biomass up to \$45/ton.</p>	<p><b>SSAAN</b> <b>(Est. \$70)</b></p>	<p>The Secretary shall ensure coordination with the Office of Advocacy and Outreach</p>

**Key**

SDFRs – Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers  
 BFRs - Beginning Farmers and Ranchers  
 FY – Fiscal Year  
 M – Million  
 SSAAN – Such Sums as are Necessary



## With Gratitude

The Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative represents a three-year collaboration of organizations, and advocates who provide insight and analysis to federal policy makers. As a result of this collaboration, the Farm Bill of 2008 provides nearly one and one half billion dollars for small farmers and ranchers and producers of color to implement sustainable strategies that will keep them on the farm and productive members of rural communities. While these resources are still meager weighted against benefits to larger producers, and while the bill itself is far from perfect, it represents a small and long overdue step toward a more diverse and equitable agricultural system in this country.

These historic gains would not have been possible without the guidance and support of the organizations that helped fund these efforts and the members of Congress who worked hard to ensure that, for the first time, our nation's farm and food policy accurately reflected the role, contribution and importance of farmers of color.

Of particular importance to this effort was the invaluable support and important encouragement of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Oxfam America and the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, with additional support from Farm Aid and others. We also thank our allies in the Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative and in the sustainable agriculture, community food, hunger and family farm movements for their collaboration.

The Farm Bill proposals drafted by the United States Department of Agriculture with input from its Community-Based Partners were also a valuable contribution to the process. The DI Team notes the importance of the set-aside proposals made for the Conservation Title which set the stage for the inclusion of set asides as an important policy tool.

The Leaders and Members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Native American Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus also provided valuable guidance and dedicated support. We thank these members and their staffs for careful attention during many long hours over many months to assure the diversity provisions were well-constructed and included in the final bill.

Special thanks to my Policy Team Co-Chair, Ross Racine for his leadership, Jerry Pennick of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, Albert Jacquez of the William C. Velasquez Institute, and the Rural Coalition for contributions to writing this report, to Rudy Arredondo for the photos, to Dave Livingston for the layout and design, and to our whole DI Team for their dedicated work.

Finally, we send our gratitude and solidarity to the hundred thousand, and we hope, growing sector of people of color, beginning and small-scale farmers and ranchers, our urban agriculture allies, and the millions of farmworkers, who contributed to and we hope will benefit from the work we have done together.

*Savonala Horne, Esq. for The Farm and Food Policy Diversity Initiative Team*



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*Farm and Food Policy  
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