

Discussion Questions - Formulation of NCBA's 2007 Farm Bill Policy Recommendation

Natural Resource and Conservation Policy

Please prioritize the following main conservation programs, in terms of usefulness and effectiveness for cattle producers to meet their conservation, environmental, wildlife, and business goals.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
Conservation Security Program (CSP)
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)

The following are specifics that have been identified within the programs to be addressed in the 2007 Farm Bill. Do we agree with these? Is there more (or less) that we want from any given program?

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

See existing policies. In addition to existing policy on EQIP, NCBA seeks the following:

1. increased dollars to meet the high demands of the program
2. maintain at least 60% of the authorized funds go to livestock
3. streamline the application process and decrease the amount of paperwork required for program participation
4. no payment limitations

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP):

The demand for GRP as a voluntary easement program since its introduction in the 2002 Farm Bill has far exceeded its ability to serve producers, therefore do we support:

1. an increased in acreage eligible for the program
2. increased dollars for GRP

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):

See existing policy. NCBA supports the following changes to CRP:

1. managed haying and grazing on CRP acres
2. we support targeted CRP to get the most conservation benefit for money spent and acres enrolled

Do we have specific needs in the **Wetlands Reserve Program**, the **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)**, or the **Conservation Security Program (CSP)** (see existing policy) that are not being met?

How could/should the existing Farm Bill programs better enhance public lands ranching, and how should public lands grazing be addressed in the 2007 Farm Bill?

Nutrition Programs Policy

What can we do within the farm bill to ensure USDA remains the premier nutrition agency?

Credit Policy

- Do you utilize loans through the Farm Credit System?
- Do you feel that you are getting fair rates?
- What changes, if any, need to be made to the Farm Credit System?

Energy

- How do our members feel about ethanol?
- Ethanol from sources other than corn?
- What are rancher's concerns with renewable fuels?
- Should tax credits be given to help promote renewable energy of any kind?

Disaster Assistance

- How would you modify the current disaster programs to better serve cattlemen?
- Do the LAP, LCP, and ECP programs work?
- Is dried milk feed assistance from USDA beneficial?
- How long does it take you to get disaster payments?
- What kind of reception do you get from FSA as a cattle producer and not a crop farmer?