

The Road to Reform : Agricultural Appropriations and the 2012 Farm Bill

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National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

- An alliance of grassroots organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities.
- <http://sustainableagriculture.net/>
- <http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/>

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

- Annual Agricultural Appropriations
- Farm Bill Reauthorization and Implementation
- Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization (Farm to School)
- Food Safety Modernization Act

Agricultural Appropriations

- Farm Bill funding may be:
 - Authorized and discretionary (may spend up to X)
 - Mandatory (shall spend)
 - Changes in Mandatory Program Spending (CHIMPS)

Agricultural Appropriations

➤ NSAC 2012 Appropriations Priorities

- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) - \$30 million
- National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service (ATTRA) - \$3 million
- Value Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG) - \$30 million
- Farm Services Agency farm credit for beginning farmers and Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Account program
- Protect mandatory conservation funding (Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

Agricultural Appropriations

House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee Bill:

- Cut SARE by \$3 Million to \$16.3 Million
- Cut VAPG by \$6.4 Million to \$12.5 Million
- Conservation cut by \$1 billion

Agricultural Appropriations

Agricultural Appropriators in Central Appalachia

➤ House

- Hal Rogers, Chair House Appropriations Committee (R-KY)
- Marcy Kaptur, Ag Appropriations Subcommittee (D-OH)

➤ Senate

- Senator Mitch McConnell, Ag Appropriations Subcommittee (R KY)
- Senator Sherrod Brown, Ag Appropriations Subcommittee (D OH)
- Full Senate

The Farm Bill

I. Commodity

II. Conservation

III. Trade

IV. Nutrition

V. Credit

VI. Rural Development

VII. Research

VII. Forestry

VIII. Energy

IX. Horticulture/Organic

X. Livestock

XI. Crop Insurance

XIII. Commodity Futures

XIV. Miscellaneous

XV. Trade and Tax

NSAC's 4 Farm Bills

- Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
- Small & Medium-Sized Farm AFRI research grants
- Organic Research & Extension Initiative
- Wetlands Reserve Program
- CRP Conservation Buffer Initiative
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Organic Conversion Assistance

NSAC's 4 Farm Bills – continued

- Farmers Market Promotion Program
- Organic Certification Cost-Share
- Value-Added Producer Grants
- Local & Regional Food Enterprise Loans
- Rural Micro-enterprise Assistance
- Beginning & Minority Farmer Credit and Conservation Targeting Provisions
- USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

- Talk about “Farm & Rural Development Act”
- RD Big 5 – Energy, Broadband, Local and Regional Food System, Landscape Amenities, Regional Innovation
- Have proposed payment limits but squandered opportunity to tighten up actively engaged rules

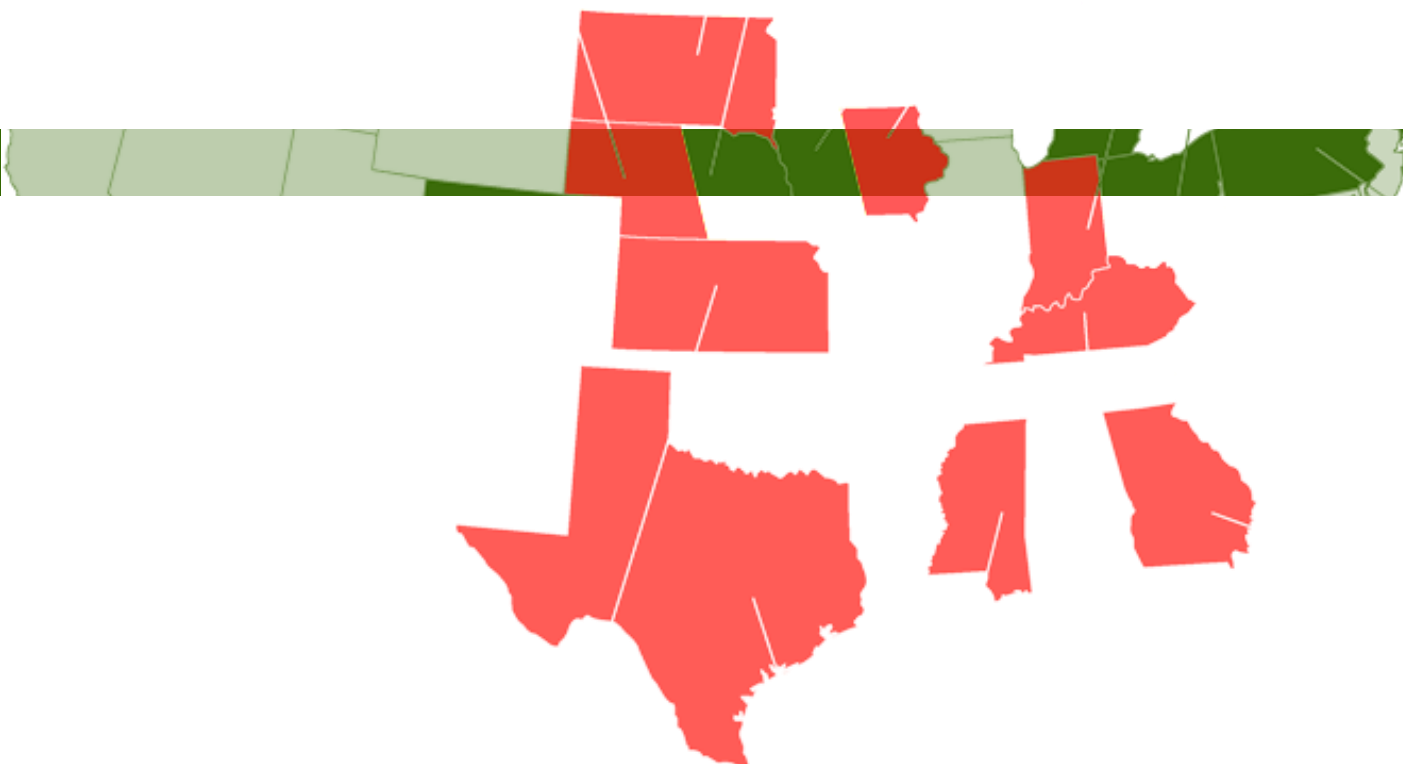
OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

- Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food
- 100,000 new farmers
- Conservation Cuts
- GIPSA Rule

SENATE AG COMMITTEE

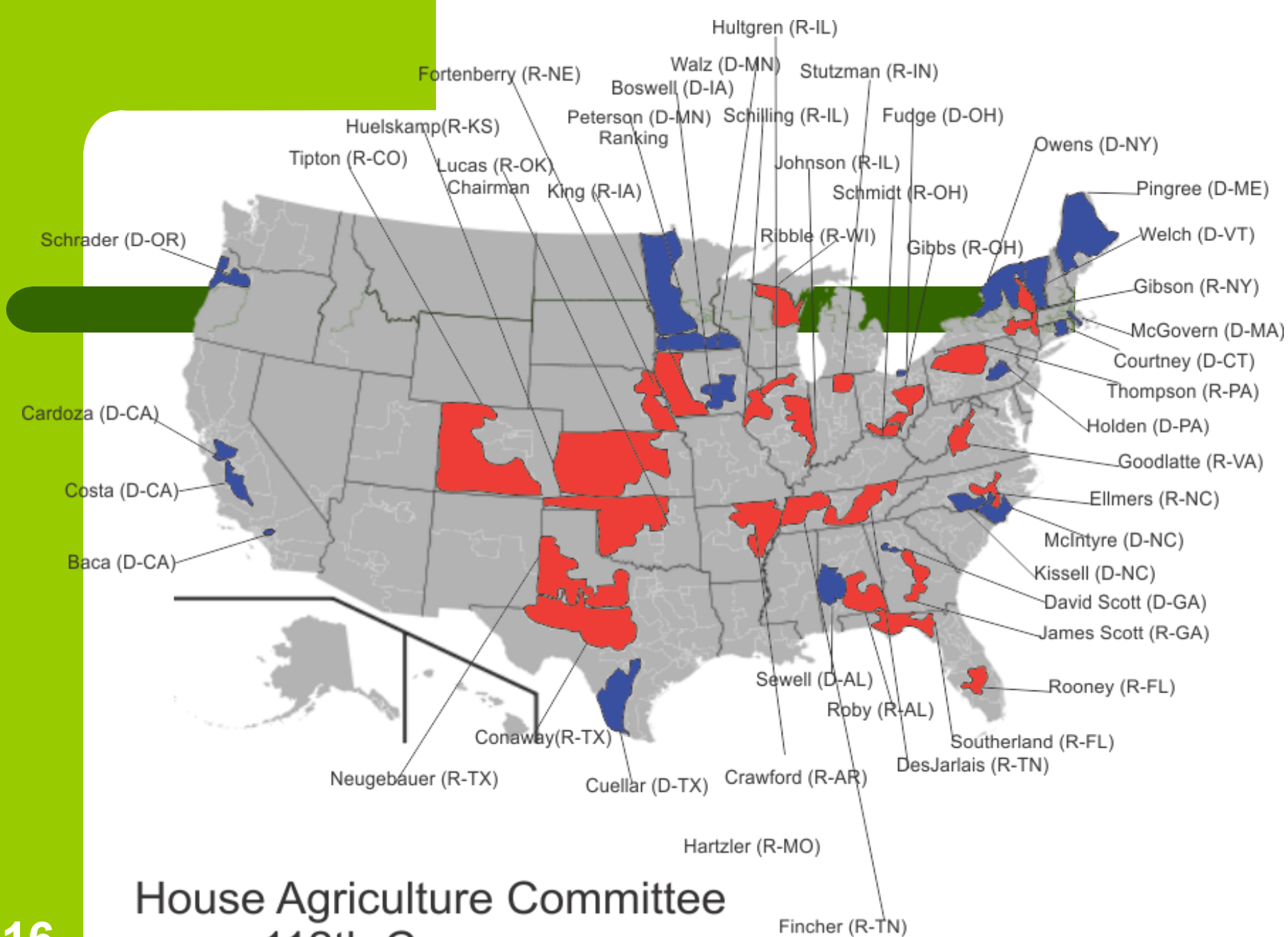
- Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
- Pat Roberts (R-KS)
- 5 former chairs - Leahy, Harkin, Lugar, Cochran, Chambliss
- McConnell(R KY) and Brown (D-OH)

Jc
Baucus (D-MT)



HOUSE AG COMMITTEE

- Frank Lucas (R-OK)
- Collin Peterson (D-MN)
- 17 Freshman GOP out of 26
- 7 New Democrats including Fudge (D OH)
- Fincher (R TN) DesJarlais (R- TN) Schmidt (R-OH)
Gibbs(R-OH)



House Agriculture Committee 112th Congress

NSAC Farm Bill Platform

1. Broad

2. Marker Bills:

- ⑩ Beginning Farmer and Rancher
- ⑩ Local and Regional Food Systems
- ⑩ Payment Limitations

3. Priorities set January 2012

NSAC Farm Bill (and beyond) Goals

1. Protect our base (\$)
2. Push the envelope (policy)
3. Grassroots engagement

Getting Engaged

- **Take Action and read up (Sign up)**
- **Join and support CAN member organizations**
- **Attend in district events – ask questions**
- **Contact or meet with in- district staff**
- **Invite district staff to field days and other events**
- **FARM database – media, fly ins, briefings**

Getting Engaged

- **Ask your Members / Senators to co-sponsor NSAC marker bills**
- **Ask your Members / Senators to ensure funding for programs without baseline**
- **Educate your Members / Senators about the economic and job creation benefits of local and regional food systems and sustainable rural development**