

A man with grey hair, wearing a white t-shirt and a brown apron, is looking down at a tablet computer he is holding. He is standing in a grocery store aisle, with shelves of various food items visible in the background. The scene is dimly lit, and the overall tone is serious. The text "The Farm Bill and Hunger" is overlaid in white, serif font on the right side of the image.

# The Farm Bill and Hunger

# What is the Farm Bill?

1

Federal legislation that governs agriculture and nutrition policy in America

2

Sets the policies that bring food from our farms and ranches to our stores and homes

3

Farm Bill must be “reauthorized” (renewed by Congress) about every five years, including by September 30, 2018

# Likely Farm Bill Process

1

Hearings and listening sessions in Washington, D.C., and across the country for Members of Congress to hear from the public

2

The House Agriculture Committee drafts and passes a bill. The bill is considered by the full House, which debates the bill, considers amendments and votes.

3

The Senate Agriculture Committee also drafts and passes a bill, which is considered and voted on by the full Senate.

4

A conference committee allows the House and Senate to come together on a compromise.

5

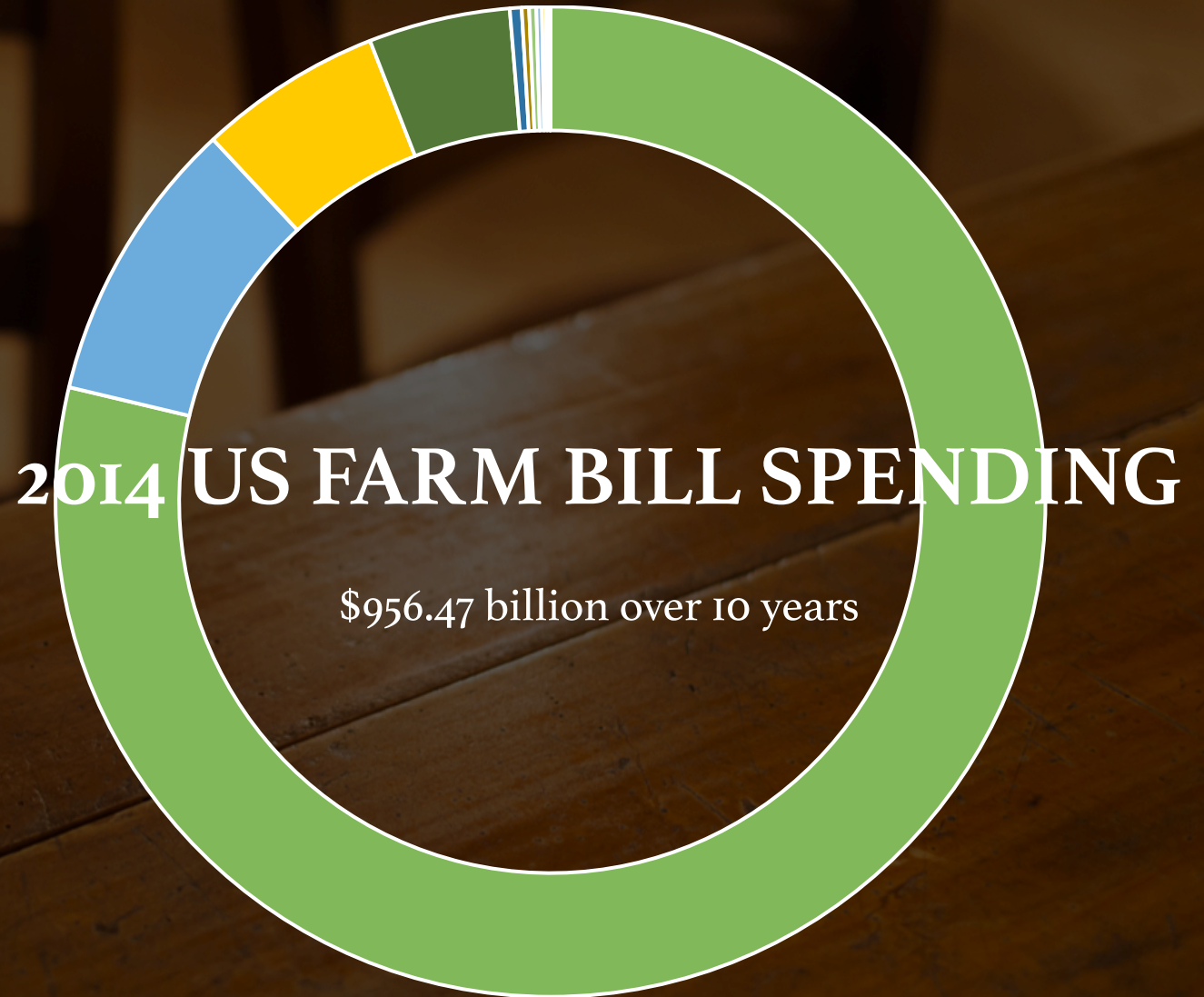
Final bill passed by House and Senate

6

Signed into law (or vetoed) by the president

# Nutrition is a major component

- Nutrition - \$756.43 billion
- Crop Insurance - \$89.83 billion
- Conservation - \$57.60 billion
- Commodity Programs - \$44.46 billion
- Trade - \$3.70 billion
- Misc. - \$2.30 billion
- Credit - \$2.24 billion
- Horticulture - \$1.76 billion
- Research and Extension - \$1.26 billion
- Energy - \$1.12 billion
- Rural Development - \$0.24 billion
- Forestry - \$0.01 billion



# Key House Farm Bill and SNAP Power Brokers



Chairman: K. Michael  
Conaway (R-TX)



Ranking Member: Collin C.  
Peterson (D-MN)

## U.S. House Committee on Agriculture

46-member committee, including:

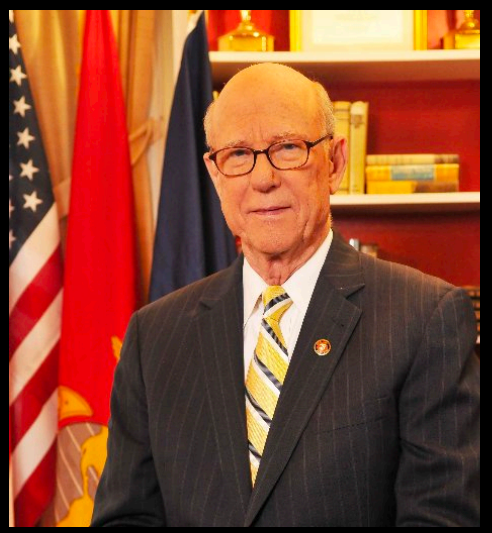
Jeff Denham (R CA-10)

Doug Lamalfa (R CA-01)

Jim Costa (D CA-16)

Jimmy Panetta (D CA-20)

# Key Senate Farm Bill and SNAP Power Brokers



Chairman: Pat Roberts (R-KS)



Ranking Member: Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition & Forestry

21-member committee

Keep the message  
high-level on *cuts*  
to SNAP in the  
House Farm Bill.

- *SNAP is an incredibly effective anti-hunger program. We urge Congress not to cut or include harmful changes to SNAP in the Farm Bill.*

**If the House Farm Bill contains cuts to SNAP:**

- *The proposed cuts and changes to SNAP will take away food from children, working people, the unemployed, and others struggling to make ends meet.*
- *SNAP, not private charity, is the front-line against hunger. SNAP helps struggling families and workers put healthy food on their tables.*

Stake yourself out  
as pro-work too.

*We can all agree that helping people who can work get good-paying jobs is an important goal, but more harsh and restrictive SNAP work requirements won't help us get there.*



**Be sure to discuss:**

- Who SNAP helps
- How SNAP makes a difference
- Why SNAP is a success story

Assert that SNAP is a successful program with far-reaching, positive impacts.

# If you need to get into the details on *specific proposals*:

## **Making the three-month time limit worse**

- *Punishing workers for being unemployed by taking away their food assistance won't help them find a better job or find work faster.*
- *Making the time limit worse punishes workers, too.*
- *SNAP can be part of the solution to helping people who are in between jobs.*
- *Limiting a state's ability to waive the SNAP time limit will come back to bite us in the next economic recession.*

## **Eliminating categorical eligibility**

- *Proposals to restrict or eliminate categorical eligibility would create a benefit cliff that punishes people who are trying to do all the right things: work more hours, get a better-paying job, or save more money so that an unexpected bill or illness doesn't push them under water.*
- *This could result in millions of low-income families losing their SNAP benefits and going hungry.*
- *Restricting categorical eligibility would mean thousands of children would lose access to free school meals.*

# What you can do to protect SNAP

- 1 Take action when you receive an alert
- 2 Call your Member of Congress or Senator about protecting SNAP
- 3 Send or forward action alerts
- 4 Talk about the importance of SNAP, including in your messaging
- 5 Use social media to share facts and stories about SNAP
  - Use the #SNAPMatters hashtag and follow and retweet [INSERT ACCOUNTS]

# Getting ready for the House Farm Bill release

Activity	Resources available from CBPP
Develop a rapid-response plan for the House Farm Bill release (e.g. pre-write statements and other materials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Topline bullets once we see the House Farm Bill</li></ul>
Reach out to the typical stakeholders and other partners to coordinate on the House Farm Bill release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updates from The Federal Scoop and other messaging materials that you can share</li></ul>
Start opinion outreach (e.g. op-eds, letters to the editor, editorial board meetings, columnist outreach) and prepare stories to share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talking points</li><li>• Tracking of legislators' statements for your use (e.g. op-eds)</li><li>• Ability to request other templates and support, as needed</li></ul>
Prepare to issue blog posts, fact sheets, or other analyses on the impact for your state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CBPP analysis - same-day and more detailed analysis over the long term, with state data where possible</li></ul>
Plan your social media activity, including boosted posts and ads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social media graphics and graphics templates</li><li>• Sample social media posts</li></ul>

***We will also share a Farm Bill toolkit with more ideas!***



Questions?