

U.S. House of Representatives
110th Congress
2007-2008

1. Ag Disaster Package (H.R. 2207) - May 10, 2007

The House passed, 302-102, H.R. 2207, the Agricultural Disaster Assistance and Western States Emergency Unfinished Business Appropriations Act of 2007. The bill contains \$3.5 billion of ag disaster assistance to assist producers who suffered crop and livestock losses from weather-related disasters during fiscal years 2005, 2006 and 2007. Also included in the agriculture bill is a one-month extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) dairy subsidy program, and \$500 million for fighting wildfires.

Farm Bureau favored a “yea” (Y) vote.

2. Kind/Flake Amendment to the Farm Bill – July 26, 2007

The House rejected, 117-309, an amendment by Reps. Ron Kind (D-WI) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) to reduce direct farm payments, marketing loan rates, farm payment limits and income caps. The amendment would have applied the savings from these cuts to increase nutrition and conservation program funding. Farm Bureau supports strong nutrition and conservation programs, but it opposes shifting funds from one title to another. Farm Bureau supports the current “three-legged stool” structure of farm commodity payments.

Farm Bureau favored a “nay” (N) vote on the amendment.

3. House passed Farm Bill (H.R. 2419) – July 27, 2007

The House passed the 2007 farm bill by a vote of 231-191. The bill would extend the current farm safety net and provide \$1.6 billion to meet research, conservation and pest and disease control needs of fruit and vegetable producers. The House passed a farm bill that would include reform measures, expand benefits to all sectors of agriculture and extend an adequate safety net for farmers.

Farm Bureau favored a “yea” (Y) vote.

4. Water Resources Veto Override (H.R. 1495) – November 6, 2007

The House voted, 361-54, to override a presidential veto of the Water Resources Development Act. A two-thirds majority vote in each chamber was needed to override the veto and make the bill law. The Water Resources Development Act authorizes the use of federal funds to rebuild seven locks along the Mississippi-Illinois rivers. If Congress appropriates the necessary construction funds, the new locks will be 1,200 feet long to accommodate longer barge tows and make inland waterway transport of farm commodities more cost-effective.

Farm Bureau favored a “yea” (Y) vote.

5. U.S. Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (H.R. 3688) – November 8, 2007

The House approved, 285-132, the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (H.R. 3688). Farm Bureau estimates the trade agreement would increase U.S. agricultural exports to Peru by \$705 million per year once it is fully implemented, meaning once Peru phases out import tariffs on all U.S. agricultural exports to Peru.

Farm Bureau favored a “yea” (Y) vote.

6. Energy Independence and Security Act (H.R. 6) – December 18, 2007

The House approved the Energy Independence and Security Act (H.R. 6) by a vote of 314-100. The legislation increased mandatory ethanol production in the United States to 35 billion gallons by 2025. The mandate would be divided by 15 billion gallons of starch (corn) based ethanol and 20 billion gallons of “advanced biofuels.” The legislation also increases the CAFE standards for vehicles, but separates light duty trucks from SUVs.

Farm Bureau favored a “yea” (Y) vote.

7. Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act (H.R. 5351) – February 27, 2008

The House passed the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act (H.R. 5351) of 2008 by a vote of 236-182. The bill extends through 2011 tax credits for producers of electricity from wind energy and biomass. It authorizes \$2 billion in new clean renewable energy bonds for public and cooperative electricity producers. The bill creates a new production tax credit of 50 cents per gallon for cellulosic ethanol producers. This tax credit is in addition to the existing 51 cents-per-gallon credit for producers of ethanol and the 10 cents-per-gallon small producer credit. The bill extends through 2010 the \$1 and 50 cents-per-gallon production tax credits for biodiesel and the small biodiesel producer credit of 10 cents per gallon. It also clarifies that the \$1 per-gallon biodiesel credit is limited to producers of biodiesel from biomass. The bill increases the 30 percent alternative refueling tax credit to 50 percent (capped at \$50,000) to encourage businesses to install alternative fuel pumps.

Farm Bureau favored a “yea” (Y) vote.

8. Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement rule vote (H.Res. 1092), April 10, 2008

The House approved, 224-195, a resolution (H. Res. 1092) to waive the 90-day limit for Congress to vote on legislation to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. The agreement was negotiated under U.S. Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), also known as fast-track, which requires Congress to hold an up-or-down vote (no amendments allowed) within 90 days after the president sends the trade agreement to Congress for approval. Under TPA, the agreement automatically takes effect if Congress does not act within 90 days. President Bush sent the Colombia agreement to Congress and the clock started ticking on April 8. The House's removal of the 90-day limit creates uncertainty over if or when the House will ever schedule a vote on the trade deal. Farm Bureau supports the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement implementing legislation (H.R. 5274) and estimates the deal will increase U.S. agricultural exports by more than \$900 million per year once it is fully implemented.

Farm Bureau favored a “nay” (N) vote on the resolution.

9. 2008 Farm Bill (Conference Report)

The 2008 Farm Bill would extend the current farm safety net and provide additional funding for conservation, specialty crops and biofuels research.

Farm Bureau favored a “yea” (Y) vote.