



## 2002 FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT CARD

Issue/Policy/Program	Congress	USDA	Comments
Reward farmers and ranchers for adopting advanced conservation systems through nationwide implementation of the <b><i>Conservation Security Program</i></b>	<b>F</b>	<b>D</b>	Both Congress and the Administration backed repeated cuts, now totaling over \$4 billion, to CSP funding, cuts further exacerbated by USDA decision to restrict technical assistance. As a result it would take CSP over 20 years to reach farmers in all parts of the country. USDA has made important strides in implementing the program where it has been made available, but overall the program needs dramatic improvement.
Establish effective <b><i>commodity program payment limitations</i></b> to prevent abuse and stop subsidizing mega farms to bid land away from small and moderate-sized family farms	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	When faced with the task of reducing the farm bill budget, Congress cut rural development, conservation, and agricultural research while opting to leave annual million dollar production subsidy checks to mega farms unscathed. Meanwhile, USDA talks the talk of reform but won't walk the walk, failing to take any action to close regulatory loopholes designed by its own lawyers.
Invest in agricultural entrepreneurial development through <b><i>Value-Added Producer Grants</i></b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	Overall USDA has made solid progress on delivering the program, but both Congress and the Administration supported funding cuts (cut by \$70 million in last 3 years). Program would be improved by clear priority for projects that improve the viability of small & medium-sized farms.
Reduce barriers to a new generation of farmers entering agriculture through <b><i>beginning farmer &amp; rancher programs</i></b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	USDA has yet to propose and Congress has yet to fund the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, the keystone program adopted in the 2002 bill. Credit title beginning farmer program implementation and funding has been reasonably good, but implementation of conservation incentives for new farmers has been weak.

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Increase outcome-based competitive research funding on critical issues through the <b><i>Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems</i></b>	D	B	The program has funded generally excellent projects and outcomes, but both Congress and the Administration have made a major raid on its funding. Program is now continuing on smaller scale as an emphasis on integrated projects within the National Research Initiative.
Expand organic farming systems through <b><i>organic research and extension &amp; organic certification cost share</i></b>	B	B	Both the Organic Farming Research and Extension Initiative and the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program are off to a good start, but organic is still not getting anywhere close to its fair share of resources.
Encourage area-wide natural resource and environmental protection via local cooperative conservation efforts through the <b><i>Partnerships &amp; Cooperation Initiative</i></b>	A	D	Congress wisely approved Partnerships and Cooperation as part of the farm bill to stimulate multi-producer projects to address local resource problems and community development opportunities. USDA turned this into a huge missed opportunity by failing to implement the program other than providing a small number of planning grants.
Make good on the funding promises for <b><i>farm bill conservation programs</i></b>	C	C	As a result of Administration proposals and congressional actions, farm bill conservation program funding has been cut by over \$5 billion since the farm bill was signed into law. Meanwhile, farmer and rancher demand for the programs remains high and waiting lists to get in are long.
Foster direct farmer-to-consumer marketing to improve farm income and consumer access to high quality food through the <b><i>Farmers Market Promotion Program</i></b>	C	B	Funding for the FMPP was not forthcoming until 2006, and then only \$1 million was made available, but USDA is off to great start with first year money, receiving proposals from nearly every state and funding a wide range of new market activity. Great promise, but significant funding is now needed for this growing segment of agriculture.
Improve fair competition and consumer right to know through <b><i>Country of Origin Labeling</i></b>	F	F	Despite its passage as part of the 2002 Farm Bill, the Administration and Congress have repeatedly delayed implementation of country of origin labeling for meat.
<b>COMBINED GRADE</b>	D+	C-	<b>Huge opportunity for improvement in the 2007 Farm Bill</b>