



National Organic Coalition

2007 Farm Bill Proposals And Status (as of 12/20/07)

<u>NOC Farm Bill Proposal</u>	<u>Status in House</u>	<u>Status in Senate</u>
<p><u>Organic Certification Cost Share Reauthorization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory funding of \$25 million for the 5-year life of the Farm Bill Increase annual cost-share eligibility from \$500 to \$750 per operation 	<p>The Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act (H.R. 2419) passed the House of Representatives on July 27, 2007, by a vote of 231-191</p> <p>- \$22 million in mandatory funding for the National Certification Cost Share Program over the 5-year life of farm bill. Annual cost-share eligibility is increased from \$500 to \$750/ operation /year.</p> <p>- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program is reauthorized at \$10 million annually in mandatory funding, with 10 % of this being for organic certification cost share program for the organic producers in 17 AMA states (VA and HI are new AMA states).</p>	<p>The Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act was reported out of the Senate Agriculture Committee on Oct 25, 2007. The Senate bill number is also H.R. 2419, and passed the full senate on December 14, 2007, by a vote of 79-14.</p> <p>\$22 million in mandatory funding for National Certification Cost Share Program over the 5-year life of farm bill. Annual cost-share eligibility is increased from \$500 to \$750 per operation per year. Includes federal and state report requirements.</p> <p>Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program is reauthorized at \$20 million annually in mandatory funding, with \$1 million a year in certification cost share for the organic producers in 16 AMA states (ID new AMA state)</p>
<p><u>Conservation Security Program</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support full funding as a national “entitlement” program, with mandatory funding, to be available in all watersheds Create easy “crosswalk” between organic certification and CSP, so that a producer’s certified organic farm plan can also provide eligibility for higher tiers of CSP benefits 	<p>- The bill significantly cuts funding for the CSP program and prevents new CSP sign ups for the next 4 years (2008-2011).</p> <p>However, language is added stating that in evaluating CSP applications, the Secretary is required to: “consider the multiple benefits of conservation-based farming systems, including resource-conservation crop rotations, managed rotational grazing, and the adoption of certified production under the national organic production program under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.”</p> <p>In addition, language was added to require the Secretary to: “establish a transparent and producer-friendly means by which producers may coordinate and simultaneously certify eligibly under a conservation security contract and under the national organic production program</p>	<p>- CSP program reauthorized with \$1.28 billion in extra funding over baseline (over 10 years).</p> <p>- Language added to recreate a direct crosswalk between CSP and organic certification. Certified organic farmers are given priority within CSP.</p>

	<p>established under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990”</p>	
<p><u>Organic Conversion Assistance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a National Organic Conversion and Stewardship Incentives Program within the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide financial assistance to farmers for the adoption of advanced conservation practices as part of the process of converting to organic production, with mandatory funding of \$50 million annually • Half of the funding provided for the Organic Conversion Program should be used for technical and education assistance • Authorize the creation of a National Organic Technical Committee to provide advice to NRCS on the implementation of the Organic Conversion Program 	<p>Includes a provision authorizing \$50 million (over the 5-yr life of the farm bill) for an organic conversion incentive and technical assistance program, to allow farmers converting to organic to receive up to \$10,000 /year for a maximum of 3 yrs, to implement conservation practices geared toward organic conversion. Requires farmers to also receive technical assistance from USDA or qualified nonprofits/consultants to help in the conversion process. Funding subject to appropriations. 50 % of the funds are to be used for technical assistance.</p> <p>-Provision added to EQIP authorization to make “organic transition” a new, specific purpose of the program.</p> <p>- Within EQIP, \$5 million annually in mandatory funding is set aside within “Conservation Innovation Grant” section for outreach to specialty crop and organic farmers. This is a competitive grants program to “stimulate innovative approaches to leveraging federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection...”</p>	<p>Section 2360- Authorizes an Organic Conversion Program within the EQIP Program. While there is no specific funding attached to the program, it is part of the overall EQIP program which does have mandatory funding. The technical assistance aspect of this program has been moved to another section of the Conservation title which deals with technical assistance for the overall EQIP program.</p>
<p><u>Seeds and Breeds for the 21st Century</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the National Research Initiative (NRI) to list “classical plant and animal breeding” as one of the priorities for competitive research grants, and modify term limitations for NRI research grants to reflect longer-term nature of breeding programs. • Reauthorize the ARS National Genetic Resource Program and increase support for the collection, preservation and evaluation of germplasm collections. Direct ARS to accelerate long-term research in this arena. • Enact a successor to the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, and include classical plant and animal breeding as a priority. 	<p>-Bill merges NRI and IFAFS, and establishes NRI as basic research and IFAFS as applied research. The term for IFAFS and NRI competitive grants is changed from 5 to 10 years, as NOC requested</p> <p>-Within IFAFS section of the bill, a provision added to make classical plant and animal breeding a priority.</p> <p>-The National Genetic Resource Program is reauthorized</p>	<p>Amends NRI to list classical and animal breeding as one of the priorities for competitive research grants, and modifies term limits for NRI research grants to reflect longer-term nature of breeding programs.</p> <p>Reauthorize the ARS National Genetic Resource Program and increase support for the collection, preservation and evaluation of germplasm collections. Direct ARS to accelerate long-term research in this arena.</p>

<p><u>Competitive Markets in Organic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the Agricultural Fair Practices Act to close loopholes which have made it difficult to enforce, and add provisions to require processors to bargain in good faith with associations of producers, including organic producer associations, instead of leaving producers to negotiate price and contract terms unilaterally with large corporate buyers. 	<p>Nothing in House bill</p>	<p>Amends the Agricultural Fair Practices Act to close loopholes which have made it difficult to enforce, and add provisions to require processors to bargain in good faith with associations of producers.</p>
<p><u>Organic Research</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combine existing CSREES organic research programs into one Integrated Organic Program (IOP), with combined mandatory funding of \$15 million annually. This includes Organic Farming Research and Extension Initiative, (authorized through the 2002 Farm Bill with \$3 mill. in annual mandatory funding), and Organic Transition Program, (about \$1.9 million in annual discretionary funding.) A permanent National Program Leader for Organic Agriculture should be created at the Agriculture Research Service (ARS), with at least \$25 mil. annually to be dedicated to organic-specific research, increased commensurate with the relative growth in the organic sector. National Agriculture Library should strengthen its efforts to disseminate organic research results. Expand the 2002 Farm Bill Organic Production and Marketing Data Initiative to require USDA data collection agencies to collect and publish segregated organic data. 	<p>-Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative is reauthorized at \$25 million a year, subject to appropriations. In addition, \$25 million in mandatory funding (over the 5 year life of the farm bill) is also provided</p> <p>-\$3 million in mandatory funding (over of the 5 year life of the farm bill) provided for organic data collection</p> <p>- Sense of Congress provision that ARS should spend research dollars on organic research commensurate with organic's retail market share</p>	<p>Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative receives \$16 million a year in mandatory funding.</p> <p>-\$5 million in mandatory funding (over 5 years) provided for organic data collection, to be used for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to collect data relating to organic production; 2) to identify and publish organic production and market data initiatives and surveys; 3) to expand, collect, and publish organic census data analyses; 4) to fund comprehensive reporting of prices relating to organically-produced agricultural products; 5) to conduct analysis relating to organic production, handling, distribution, retail, and trend studies 6) to study and perform periodic updates on the effects of organic standards on consumer behavior; and, 7) to conduct analysis for organic agriculture using the national crop table. <p>-Includes Sense of the Senate language that ARS should research dollars on organic research commensurate with organic's retail market share.</p>
<p><u>GMO Liability</u></p>	<p>- Section 123 removed from bill</p>	<p>Nothing on the bill on this subject.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a liability regime so that farmers suffering economic and other losses from contamination with GE material can recoup their losses from the manufacturers of GE seeds. Oppose provision added to bill during House mark up (Sec. 123), which would limit the ability of states and localities from establishing their own laws to regulate GMOs. 		
<p><u>Crop Insurance and Disaster Program Equity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate 5 percent surcharge levied on organic producers under federal crop insurance Specify that organic producers should be reimbursed for losses based on organic prices not conventional prices Rectify similar inequities in federal disaster programs 	<p>- Provision added that requires USDA's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to enter into contracts "for the development of improvements to federal crop insurance policies" for organic crops, including a review of risk and loss experience of organic crops relative to non-organic crops. If the review shows that the loss and risk history for organic crops relative to non-organic crops is not significantly, consistently or systemically different, then USDA is required to "eliminate or reduce the premium surcharge for coverage of organic crops." Also, USDA is required to offer organic farmers a choice of coverage that reflects the actual retail or wholesale price received for organic crops, with the option being available to organic farmers starting in the 2009 crop year.</p>	<p>Provisions added as follows:</p> <p>Section 1907- Surcharge Prohibition Provides that USDA may not require producers to pay a premium surcharge for using scientifically-sound sustainable and organic farming practices. Does allow a surcharge for individual organic crops on the basis of demonstrated risk factors (including loss history) Also requires USDA to consult with independent experts in the field in order to evaluate the reliability of the above information.</p> <p>Payment Rates for Organic Losses: USDA will develop procedures to offer producers of organic crops a price election that would reflect the actual retail or wholesale prices, as appropriate, received by producers for organic crops, as established using data collected and</p>
<p><u>MISCELLANEOUS</u></p>	<p>-ATTRA program received permanent authorization - Value Added Producer Grant received \$20 million in mandatory funding - Market Access Program is amended to specifically add organic products to the list of products eligible under this export promotion program</p>	<p>- ATTRA authorized to receive \$5 million annually, subject to appropriations. (Section 6019) - Value Added Producer Grant Program did not receive funding - Market Access Program is amended to specifically add organic products to the list of products eligible under this export promotion program - Section 1822- Clarifies that organic farmers do not have to be "100 percent" organic in order to receive an exemption for promotion assessments on their organic crops - Provision authorizes specific appropriations funding levels for NOP, as follows: - \$5 million for FY 08 - \$6.5 million for FY 09 - \$8 million for FY 2010 - \$9.5 million for FY 2011 - \$11 million for FY 2012</p>

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