

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

TITLE I - COMMODITIES

Following historic volatility in the farm economy, the Senate Republican Farm Bill Framework for Title I reflects the priorities outlined by farmers, ranchers, dairy producers, specialty crop growers and stakeholders across all commodities and regions to modernize the farm safety net.

- Modernizes the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage programs:
 - **Increases Statutory Reference prices** for all covered commodities by an average of 15%.
 - **Enhances the Effective Reference Price Escalator** to be 88% of the 5-year Olympic Average market year average price, capped at 120% of the statutory reference price.
 - **Increases the coverage level under ARC.**
- **Maintains and enhances access to risk management tools** in Title I and crop insurance.
- Provides an **inflation-adjusted payment limitation** and ensures equitable treatment for all farms, including LLCs.
- Improves the **Marketing Assistance Loan program through higher loan rates** and facilitates the movement of U.S commodities into domestic and global markets.
- **Adds base acres for farms without base or minimal base** and creates a mechanism to continue bringing **new and beginning farmers** into the safety net for years to come.
- Facilitates movement of **more domestic sugar into the market** by modernizing the Tariff Rate Quota administration for raw cane sugar and marketing allotments for sugar beet processors while authorizing the Secretary to study and define “refined” sugar.
- Expands **access to all standing disaster programs and makes bipartisan improvements** to address drought, losses for producers who rely on acequia systems, livestock depredation and accuracy of indemnity rates for livestock and honeybees, and makes enhancements to the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and the Tree Assistance Program.
 - **Ensures program eligibility** for producers who derive 75% or more of their income from farming, ranching, or forestry.
 - Establishes **clear eligibility for producers of farm-raised fish** experiencing economic losses associated with bird depredation under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm Raised Fish.
- Reigns in discretionary use of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and increases transparency of CCC use.
- Bolsters the **Dairy Margin Coverage** program, including updates to production history and maintaining the premium discount for dairy operations who lock in coverage for the life of the farm bill.
- Makes permanent the **Dairy Forward Pricing Program.**
- Requires biennial cost surveys by dairy processing plants to ensure Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) milk pricing formulas reflect the cost of manufacturing dairy products.
- Directs the Secretary to modify the Class I mover to improve pricing formulas under FMMOs.

