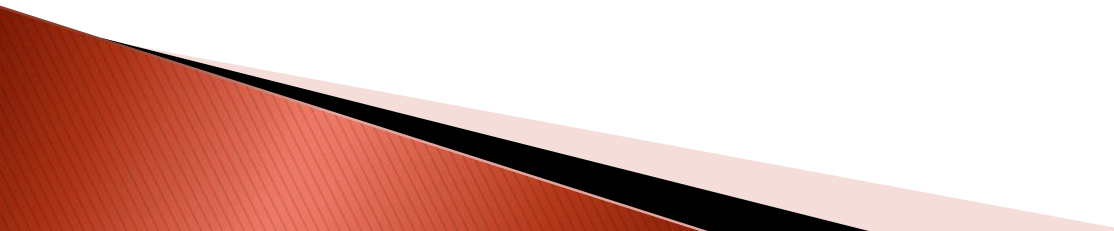



Non-Crop Highlights of 2014 Farm Bill

Forrest Stegelin
Extension Agribusiness Economist
University of Georgia

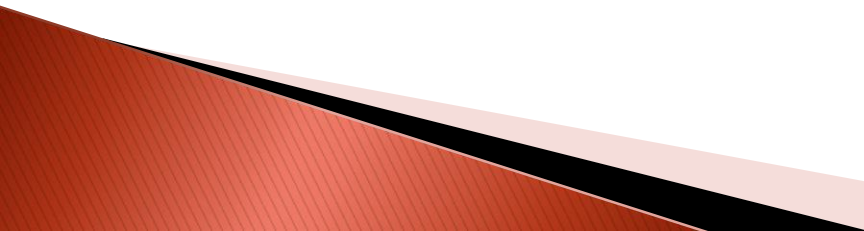
Not a discussion by Title, but by Topic

- ▶ For instance, there are references to Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in Agriculture in Title II (Conservation), Title V (Credit), Title VI (Rural Development), Title VII (Research), Title XI (Crop Insurance), and Title XII (Miscellaneous).
 - ▶ So, focusing on highlights of changes and potential economic implications, by topic.
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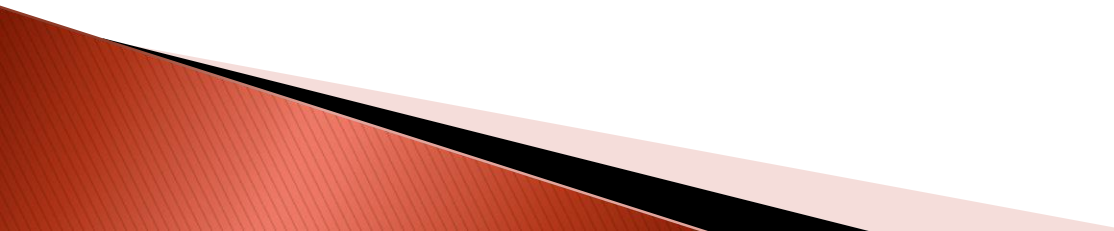
Rural Development

- ▶ Continues USDA Rural Development programs to support investments in the rural economy through grants, loans and loan guarantees with the emphasis on essential infrastructure, small business development, job creation, and growth, through the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.
 - ▶ Provides funding for water and wastewater infrastructure.
 - ▶ Reserves portion of certain programs for regional, long-term investments to better promote economic development through regional planning and leveraging of resources.
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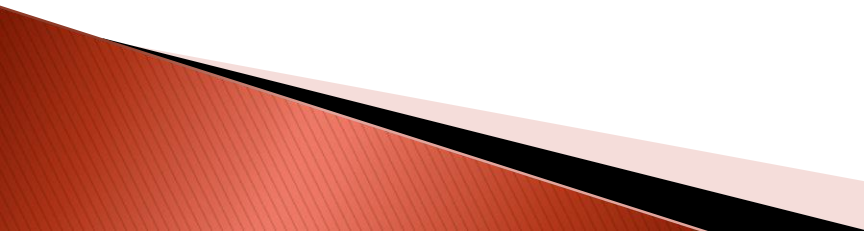
Trade and Foreign Agriculture

- ▶ Continues authorization for \$200 million annually for international market development, primarily by State Departments of Agriculture.
 - ▶ Authorizes funding for Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) and makes the program permanent.
 - ▶ Provides more flexibility for USAID to use cash assistance in administering the Food for Peace program.
 - ▶ Increases flexibility for assistance in emergency situations.
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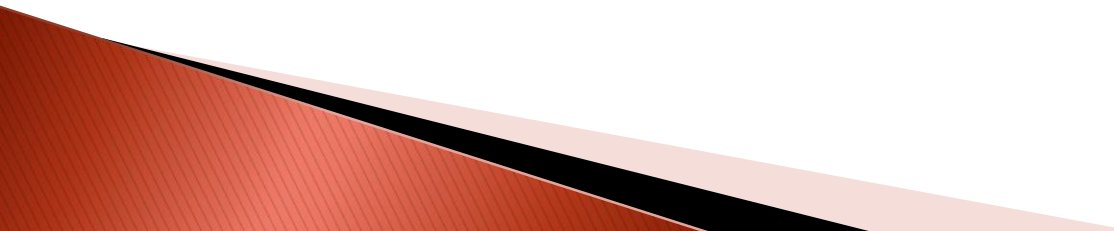
Research

- ▶ Endows \$200 million for a foundation for agricultural research (and extension [applied research] and education).
 - ▶ Doubles the funding for Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) to \$80 million annually.
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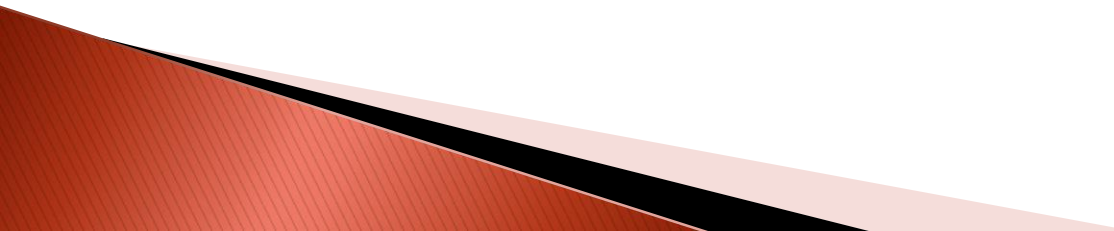
Conservation

- ▶ Consolidates conservation programs for flexibility, accountability, and adaptability at the local level.
 - ▶ Links basic conservation programs to crop insurance premium subsidy for highly erodible lands and wetlands.
 - ▶ Builds upon previous successful partnerships and encourages agricultural producers and partners to design conservation projects that focus on and address regional priorities.
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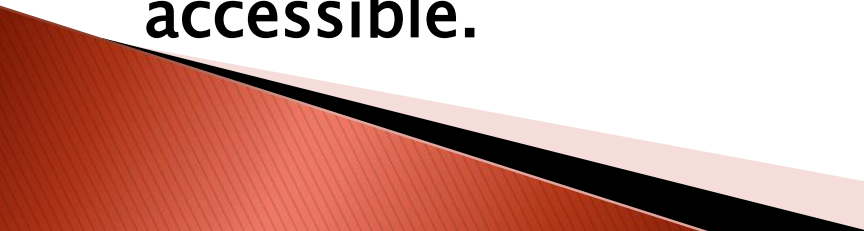
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

- ▶ Reauthorizes and provides \$880 million to energy programs established in the 2008 Farm Bill (the Biorefinery Assistance Program, the Biobased Marketing Program, and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program).
 - ▶ Expands Biorefinery Assistance Program to include biobased products and renewable chemical manufacturing.
 - ▶ Expands Biopreferred program to include forestry products.
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Forestry

- ▶ **Makes the Stewardship Contracting Authority permanent, allowing the Forest Service (FS) to conduct restoration work and stimulate job growth.**
 - ▶ **Makes the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) permanent and available nationwide. GNA allows State Foresters to conduct restoration services on National Forest System Lands.**
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Nutrition

- ▶ **Maintains Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility for millions of low-income families, those needing a food assistance safety net to put food on the table.**
 - ▶ **Provides \$200 million for job training and \$100 million to increase fruit and vegetable purchases.**
 - ▶ **Provides \$250 million in additional funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).**
 - ▶ **Authorizes \$125 million for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative to make nutritious food more accessible.**
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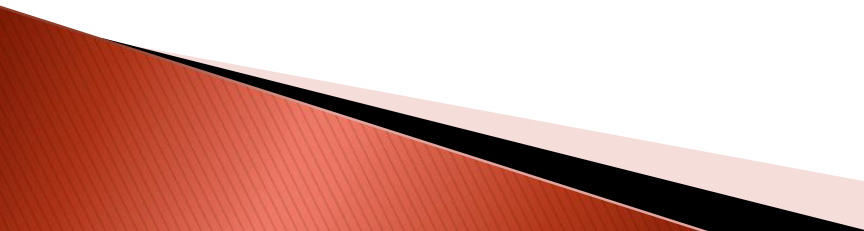
Next Generation Farmers and Ranchers

- ▶ Provides \$100 million for the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development program to facilitate farmland transition to the next generation of farmers.
- ▶ Improves outreach and communication to military veterans about farming and ranching opportunities by establishing a Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison..
- ▶ Increases access to capital and supports crop insurance and risk management tools, including reducing crop insurance premiums during the first five years of farming. (Ownership limitation “does not exceed 30% of average county acreage” for eligibility – small family farm.)

Local and Regional Food Systems

- ▶ Renames Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) to “Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program” and provides \$30 million annually.
 - ▶ Continues to reserve funds in the Business & Industry Loan Program for locally– and regionally–focused businesses.
 - ▶ Advances growth of local and regional food hubs and systems for Value Added Product Market Development Grants.
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Farm Safety Net

- ▶ Eliminates direct payments and continues crop insurance.
 - ▶ Producers must make a five-year choice between the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), which will force agribusinesses to focus on inventory management and sales of supply chain products and services for their customers.
 - ▶ Restores livestock disaster assistance for losses dating back to 2011, and establishes a permanent livestock disaster program. Also establishes the Dairy Margin Protection program.
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Thank you for your attention and interest.
Are there any questions or comments?

